

# Primary Geography Update

## Autumn term 2021 (1)



### Focus on weather & climate

Welcome back! This year geography updates will have a focus on different subject topic themes from across the geography curriculum. These will be shared throughout the year to support with geography teaching and leadership, in addition to the remote and face-to-face subject leader network meetings as well as geography professional learning & development sessions.

#### Weather & Climate, The Met Office virtual 'Science Camp' 2021

The Met Office have now released information about their virtual science camp. Science Camp provides young people with the opportunity to learn from one of the UK's leading science organisations, discovering weather and climate science through engaging activities and exciting demonstrations, led by enthusiastic Met Office staff. From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September, science camp will be hosted virtually with videos and resources provided throughout the Autumn term, ending with a Teams Live Q & A session on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November. The sessions will cover (1) What is temperature? What is wind? (2) What are clouds? (3) Measuring the weather, (4) Rain or Shine, (5) Forecasting for the World and Extreme Weather, (6) What makes our computer super? (7) Climate, (8) Climate change, (9) Future Workforce, (10) Ask the Met Office – Teams Live Q&A. These sessions are likely to be suitable for UKS2 pupils. To register your interest in this you will need to complete the registration form accessed [here](#).

The **Met Office website** is a really useful source of support for teachers. You can explore resources for KS2 pupils [here](#). Information contained in the National Meteorological Library & Archive can be accessed [here](#).

**Metmark Award** - The Royal Meteorological Society & the Met Office jointly offer the 'Metmark' Award. There is no cost for applying for this award. You may decide to contribute regularly to the Weather Observations Website (WOW), which can be accessed [here](#). Further details of the Metmark Award can be found [here](#), including how to apply and awarding criteria.

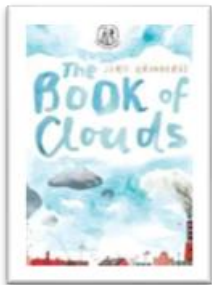
**MetLink 'Borrow weather equipment'** - UK schools may apply to the Royal Meteorological Society for the loan of instrument packs, which include lesson resources and the instruments needed to do the fieldwork, for a period of half a term. If you are interested, please contact the Head of Education at [education@rmets.org](mailto:education@rmets.org) to arrange to borrow a pack. **This scheme is extremely popular and they recommend requesting a pack at least 2 terms in advance to avoid disappointment.** The KS2 pack contains 10 infrared thermometers, 1 digital anemometer, 1 rain gauge and 2 USB temperature dataloggers. School borrowing equipment will need to cover the postage and packaging costs (approx. £13) for returning the instruments and to take responsibility for any accidents or loss whilst the instruments are on loan to you.

The **Geographical Association** have produced teacher resources to support investigating the weather. Further information can be accessed via their website [here](#).

The **Weather Memory Bank** project investigates how people relate to and remember their local weather and particular weather events they have experienced throughout their lives. Different experiences and memories are central to the way in which information on long-term climate change, and short-lived weather events, is gathered and transmitted across generations. The Weather Memory Bank can be accessed [here](#).

The **World Weather Information Service** provides worldwide weather forecasts as well as lots of other really useful information. You can search for weather forecasts from countries around the world. By clicking into a country and city, you can also find climate graphs and data for the year. You can then compare climate graph data for identified cities within a country or for cities between countries. This website can be accessed [here](#).

**Recommended weather and climate reading books:  
Recommended by the RMS**



*The Book of Clouds* by Juris Kronbergs (2018)

Suggested age range: 8+

'Juris Kronbergs explores the appearance and ephemeral nature of clouds in 26 poems. At the end of the book, the author gives ideas about how to write or illustrate a poem. This isn't a book that will leave you knowing more about the weather – except maybe a few cloud names. However, it will encourage readers to look up at the sky and develop a deeper appreciation of our atmosphere'.



*How the Weather Works* by Christiane Dorion & Beverly Young (2011)

Suggested age range: UKS2 (winner of the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize (2011))

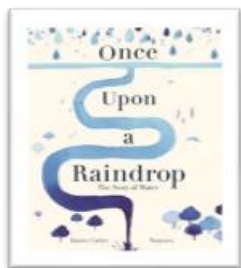
'In just 16 pages, this wonderful book covers the structure of the atmosphere, solar radiation, the water cycle, clouds, fronts, convection, air pressure, air masses, the global atmospheric circulation, making weather observations, forecasting, synoptic charts, hurricanes, regional climate, palaeoclimates and anthropogenic climate change'.



*Weather in 30 Seconds* by Dr Jen Green (2015)

Suggested age range: UKS2

'A lovely short book, with short, accurate explanations eg, ideas for simple experiments eg and calculations to demonstrate atmospheric processes and helpful illustrations. It was a great idea to put a glossary at the start of each section. The book is divided into 6 sections: Earth's weather, climate and seasons, all kinds of weather, extreme weather, predicting the weather and climate change. I have slight reservations about some of the statements in the climate change section, but would otherwise definitely recommend this book'.



*Once upon a Raindrop: The Story of Water* by James Carter (2020)

Suggested reading age 7+, interest age KS1-LKS2

'Discover the origins of water and how our water cycle works. James Carter's narrative verse takes the reader on an immersive journey across skies, lands and seas, illuminated by Nomoco's striking, dynamic watercolour illustrations. The worlds of poetry and non-fiction collide in *Once Upon a Raindrop* to create a beautiful, unique picture book about water. Supporting the school curriculum subject of water, this book also showcases poetry at its very best – playful, rhythmic, entertaining and informative'.

Vicki Margrave

On behalf of RoSIS, September 2021.