

FIRST LOOK ACTIVITY



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First Look is an activity to help students: (1) become centered and ready for learning; (2) participate in authentic data collection and analysis; (3) make personal connections to the natural world. This outside activity is a great way to start each school day, beginning with teacher and students gathering in a circle in the schoolyard. Many teachers use First Look on most days of the school year, recording data regularly, and are able to see weather patterns and trends throughout the seasons. Teacher facilitates the conversation with any of the following prompts:

1. Point to the north, south, east, west.
2. Point to location of the sun. Estimate its angle in the sky.
3. What is the temperature (estimate)?
4. Wind direction? Wind speed (estimate)? Evidence of wind (treetops, flag, etc).
5. Type of cloud cover: transparent, translucent, opaque?
6. Type of cloud: cirrus, cumulus, stratus, etc.
7. Estimate the percentage of cloud cover.
8. Where are the clouds? (High clouds, middle clouds, low clouds)
9. Estimate the percentage of humidity. Any precipitation?
10. Feel the ground. Can you feel moisture? Why?
11. Smell the air around us. What do you notice?
12. Sounds: silent listening for a minute or so...what do you hear? What do you notice?

This activity is a modification of a NASA project, S'COOL (Students' Cloud Observations On-Line), conducted by students throughout the world who then send their weather data to NASA scientists. Visit this website for more information: <https://scool.larc.nasa.gov/groundtruth.html>