Topic: Weather in our own Backyard

Source for lesson:

www.ciese.org/curriculum/weatherproj/Introductory_Activity_Lessons/lesson1weather_in_our_own_backyard/

National Science Education Standards:

1. **Earth and Space science: Content Standard D: Changes in Earth and sky:**

   Students should develop and understanding that:

   - Weather changes from day to day and over the seasons. Weather can be described by measurable quantities, such as temperature, wind direction, and speed and precipitation.
   - The sun provides the light and heat necessary to maintain the temperature of the earth.

Objectives:

1. Students will describe in detail weather conditions on a given day and write them down in their science lab notebooks.
2. Students will describe in detail weather changes that occur day to day.
3. Students will state words used to describe weather and will create a “weather word” wall on a large piece of white paper.

Materials:

- Science lab notebook or piece of paper and pencil
- Chart paper (for Weather word wall and to write students ideas and questions generated by lesson) and markers

Flow of Lesson:

1. Start class with letting the students know that we are starting a new unit on weather and climate. Let them know that we will be going outside for a brief period to study today's weather.
2. Before going outside,

   a.) Ask the students to think about the following questions:

   - What do you think of when you hear the word "weather"?
   - What kind of things would you look for if you wanted to describe the weather of the particular day to someone else?
   - What kind of day do you consider to be a good day?

   b.) Have a class discussion on how weather affects their daily lives considering such factors as the kinds of clothes they wear and the outdoor activities that they can do.

   c.) Remind the students that when they are recording the things about the weather today that they should record things that might not be visible but can be felt (like wind).

3. Have students get notebooks, pencils and coats and proceed outside. While outside remind students that they should write as many words as they can to describe the weather. If they have trouble writing words, encourage students to draw symbols to represent the characteristics of the weather today.
4. Give students 15 minutes outside to observe the weather and then have them return inside to class to discuss their observations of today's weather.

5. Once children are settled back in the classroom, the teacher should put up the chart paper and write the current date on it. Then, ask students for the words they wrote down in their notebooks to describe the weather the observed outside. Write the words on the chart paper and discuss with the students. See how many words they had in common. Challenge the students to think about new words they could use to describe the daily weather. Keep the chart paper and bring to next class.