

Temperature Activity

Prior to the lesson:

- Visit a website such as www.weather.com and select a location in the northern hemisphere where temperatures below zero are likely to occur.
- Place 5-6 thermometers outside the classroom.

Lesson Introduction:

- Divide the class into 5 teams
- Review how to read a thermometer if necessary
- Next have the teams use the thermometers you have placed outside to check the temperature
- Explain that over the next several weeks the class will determine the difference between the temperature in their town/city in North Carolina to the temperature in _____ (the site you selected)
- Next, the class that on a previous day the temperature at the selected site was -12 degrees and the local temperature was 32 degrees. Ask the groups to determine the difference between the 2 temperatures.
- As the groups work, monitor for strategies and have selected groups share answers and strategies.
- If no one used a number line, draw one and ask for a volunteer to use the number line to determine the difference between the 2 temperatures.
- Ask for other volunteers to use the number line but in a different way. Be mindful that some children may start at 32 degrees and count back by ones to -12, others may count back by tens to -12, others may count back by 32 and then 12, adding then adding the 12 and 32. Also some children may want to start at -12 and count up to 32. These approaches should be shared.
- Model how to check the temperature in the selected location using the Internet.
- Assign each team a particular day of the week. Explain that on the team's assigned day, they are to check and record the temperature. (Sample recording sheet provided). Next they are to use the Internet to (www.weather.com) to check and record the temperature in the chosen location in the northern hemisphere. Then they are to determine the difference in temperature between the 2 locations and report it to the class. All data should be recorded on the same sheet for ease of duplicating. Teacher may choose to copy the recording sheet after several days and ask groups to check each other's work.
- Additionally, the collected data could be used to create a double line graph to show the temperatures in the 2 sites. This activity could be used in conjunction with grade 5 science.

