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Activities

How's the Weather?

Name: _____ Date: _____

What's it like outside today? Any fronts or precipitation heading your way? In this Planet Diary activity, you'll look at today's weather map to find out what's happening right now. You'll then try your luck predicting tomorrow's weather.

Directions

- Go to this U.S. Weather Map from the Weather Underground. Look at the symbols on today's map. Notice the isobars, the lines of pressure. "H" is a high pressure area, while "L" is a low pressure area. The red semi-circles across a line show a warm front; blue triangles show a cold front. Different colors show precipitation. Use the map to answer Workspace questions 1 through 4.
- Let's take a look at the weather where you live. Select your state from the pull-down menu below the map. From the list of locations, select the the city or town closest to your home. Use the *Current Conditions* data to answer question 5.
- Click to enlarge today's *Radar Map* for your city. View the *Local Satellite Map*. Then answer the last question.

Workspace

1. Which states (or regions) have isobars forming loops? Based on the locations of today's fronts and precipitation, can you guess which loops show high pressure and which show low pressure?

2. Which states (or regions) have fronts moving across them today? Are they cold fronts or warm fronts?

3. Which states (or regions) have precipitation today?

4. Based on what you've learned about weather, how is your answer to question 3 linked to your answers to questions 1 and 2?

5. Today's weather data for _____ (your city):
    a. Temperature:
    b. Humidity:
    c. Barometric Pressure:
    d. Direction of Pressure:
    e. Clouds:

6. Make a prediction about tomorrow's weather conditions in your area based on the data you collected in this activity.

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