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Activities

Feeling the Pressure

Name: _____ Date: _____

You can't understand how weather works without knowing about air pressure. It also sheds light on hitting baseballs and cooking spaghetti. You'll find out more in this Planet Diary activity.

Directions

- Ho do high and low pressure differ? View these animations of high and low pressure. Answer questions 1 and 2 in the Workspace.
- How do high pressure ("H" on weather maps) or low pressure ("L") affect weather? Take a look at a high-pressure system. Roll your mouse over the numbers on the pictures and read the text that appears to the right. Scroll to *High pressure system brings sunny days*. Then answer question 3.
- Compare to a low-pressure system. Roll your mouse over the numbers and read the text. Then scroll to *How low pressure systems affect weather*. Answer question 4.
- Find out why Baseballs fly farther at higher elevations. Roll your mouse over the numbers on the graphic. Then read why *Less air allows baseballs to fly farther*. Answer question 5.
- What about that spaghetti? Go to Ask a Scientist to learn how air pressure affects spaghetti cooking time. Answer the last question.

Workspace

1. What's happening in the atmosphere when there's a high-pressure area?

2. What's happening in the atmosphere when there's a low-pressure area?

3. Explain why high pressure brings clear weather.

4. Explain why low pressure brings unsettled weather.

5. Explain how air pressure affects hitting a baseball at Denver's stadium.

6. Why does it take longer to cook spaghetti on the top of a mountain?

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