

LESSON PLAN: Are the World's Weather and Climate Changing?

Finding the Facts

1. Think about the two questions you just discussed in class. They are listed for you below.
 - Is the Earth's weather changing, or is the weather we have seen this year and in recent years just part of the Earth's natural weather cycle?
 - Assume the weather is changing. In your opinion what is causing these changes?

2. Based on what you have learned so far, what is your hypothesis? Do you believe the weather is changing of that what we have experienced in the recent past is just part of the natural weather cycle. Write your hypothesis below.

3. What is your hypothesis about what could be causing the changes in weather? Write it below.

4. Using the articles listed below, find facts that relate to each of the questions above. Record your facts in the spaces below.
 - "Hurricanes Mark Unusual Spike in Already Active Storm Cycle" available at http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/hurricanes_09-23-05.html
 - "Strange Days on Planet Earth: 6 Reasons You Should Care" available at <http://www.pbs.org/strangedays/episodes/onedegreefactor/care/index.html>
 - "Global Warming" available at http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/jan-june01/global_warming.html

Question	Supporting Facts
Is the Earth's weather changing, or is the weather we have seen this year and in recent years just part of the Earth's natural weather cycle?	
Assume the weather is changing. In your opinion what is causing these changes?	