



NATIONAL
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KIDS



Weather



Kristin Baird Rattini



Weather



Kristin Baird Rattini



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To Tom and Emily, the sunshine of my life —K. B. R.

The publisher and author gratefully acknowledge the expert review of this book

by Jeff Weber of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.



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ISBN 978-0-545-6766-8

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257673 222120

Printed in the U.S.A.

16 17 18/19

60

First Scholastic printing, September 2013

Book design by YAY! Design

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Look Up at the Sky

The weather helps us know
what to wear, and do, and grow.

It brings rain, wind, and sun.
Let's go outside for some fun!



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What Is Weather?



Peek out your window at the sky. Is it sunny or cloudy? Rainy or windy? You are checking the weather!

Weather is what it's like outside at one place, at one time. But keep a lookout. Weather can change fast!



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The Sun

The sun warms the land. It warms the air and water, too.



The sun's heat and light help things grow. Plants and animals need sunshine to live.



Q Why did the woman go outside with her purse open?

She expected some change in the weather.

A

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Sunny days are fun. You can play outside! Will you go to the park? Or ride a bike? The sun can make the air outside hot. You can cool off with a swim!



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What Comes From Clouds?



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Clouds

White, fluffy clouds are called cumulus (KYOOM-yuh-lus) clouds.

Q

What does a cloud wear under its clothes?

A

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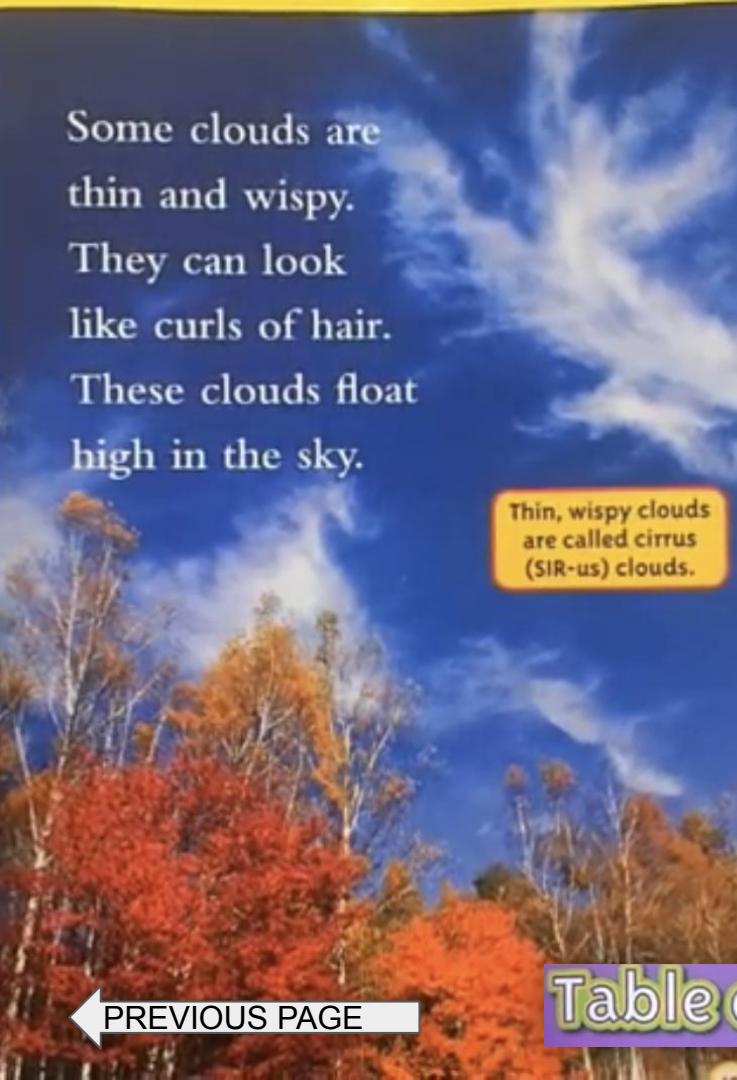
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White, fluffy clouds mean good weather.

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Weather Word

DROPLET: A very small bit of liquid



Some clouds are thin and wispy. They can look like curls of hair. These clouds float high in the sky.

Thin, wispy clouds are called cirrus (SIR-us) clouds.



Flat, gray clouds bring rain.

Flat, gray clouds are called stratus (STRA-tuhs) clouds.

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Q

What falls and never
gets up?

•WOWS

A



Weather Word

FLURRY: A light snowfall that barely covers the ground

Brrr! It's cold outside. Water **droplets** in clouds sometimes freeze. They can fall as hail or snow.



If it's hail, you'll see ice. If it's snow, you might get a **flurry** (FLUR-ee). Often, a lot of snow means a snow day!

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Q

What did the cloud say to the lightning bolt?

A

You're shocking!

Drip, drop. Down comes the rain!

Water **droplets** in clouds sometimes fall as rain. Rain falls in warm and cool weather.

Rain helps plants and animals live. It fills rivers and ponds. Rain forms puddles on sidewalks. *Splash!*

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Q

What goes up when the rain comes down?

A

An umbrella!



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Lightning and Thunder



Lightning is a super-hot stream of **electricity** (ee-lek-TRIS-uh-tee). It lights up the sky. *Flash!* It zips from the cloud toward the ground.

After lightning comes a *BOOM!* That sound is thunder.

Weather Word

ELECTRICITY:
Energy that can make heat and light

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Rainbows

Have you ever seen a rainbow after a storm? Rainbows are made from sunlight and water droplets.



Rainbows paint bright stripes of color in the sky. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Which color do you like best?



Q

What bow can't be tied?

A

A rainbow

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6 Ways Weather Is Wild



1

Sometimes water flows where it is usually dry. This is called a flood.



2

Hail is ice that rains from the sky. It can be small. Or it can be bigger than a baseball!



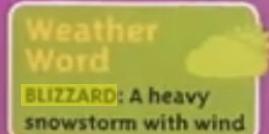
3

A hurricane brings heavy rain and strong winds.



4

Very strong winds sometimes twist. They form a tornado.



BLIZZARD: A heavy snowstorm with wind

5



Sometimes it doesn't rain for a long time. This is called a drought (drown).

6

It's hard to see in a blizzard!

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Wind



Wind is moving air. A light wind is called a breeze. A strong wind is called a gale.

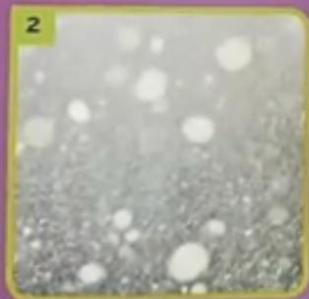
Wind has energy. It pushes clouds and rain across the sky. Wind can make kites dance.

What in the World?

These pictures are close-up views of weather things. Use the hints to figure out what's in each picture. Answers are on page 31.



HINT: Wear these in sunny weather.



HINT: They fall as a flurry or as a blizzard.

WORD BANK
raindrops snowflakes sunglasses umbrella clouds lightning



3

HINT: This goes up when rain comes down.



4

HINT: A stream of electricity



5

HINT: They come in all shapes and sizes.



6

HINT: They fall from the clouds in warm weather.

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Weather and Me

The weather helps you plan your day. Should you wear sunglasses or rain boots? Will you swim or throw snowballs?

Wherever you go, the weather is always with you.



BLIZZARD: A heavy snowstorm with wind



DROPLET: A very small bit of liquid



ELECTRICITY: Energy that can make heat and light



FLURRY: A light snowfall that barely covers the ground