

Weatherman Walt

Why the Sky is Blue



Investigation 11

Goal:

Students analyze the atmosphere and light.

Time:

4 to 6 class sessions

Introduce the Investigation:

Due to great public demand, you have been hired as the assistant to “Weatherman Walt.” In the past two months, there has been an extended inquiry into the sky. Your job is to help Walt teach the viewers why the sky is blue.

The *Science Made Simple* Web site is an extension of their newsletter. Their philosophy is as follows: “Children are natural scientists, curious about the world around them. They ask a lot of questions. That’s how they learn. The “Science Made Simple” newsletter will help provide answers. Each issue begins with a question children might ask as they notice the changing world around them.” All their articles are written for every level in the K-12 spectrum. The top of each article is devoted to grades 7 and 8 while the middle section is for older students and the bottom section of the page is for younger students.

The online links for this Investigation contain more information than the CD-ROM links.

Investigate the Science Made Simple Web site:

<http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/>

Note: You can access this site through your CD-ROM by clicking on Investigation 11.

For the one-computer classroom: You might want to print out the article or project the site on a screen or TV.

Name _____

Results from Weatherman Walt's Atmosphere Survey

Investigation 11, Activity 5

What 4 gases make up the atmosphere?

1. _____ 3. _____
2. _____ 4. _____

Name 5 small solid particles that are found in the atmosphere.

5. _____ 8. _____
6. _____ 9. _____
7. _____

Sound and Light Waves

10. What makes up a sound wave? _____
11. What makes up a light wave? _____

Colors of Light

12. Why does the sun appear white? _____

Light in the Air

13. What happens when light hits dust? _____
14. What happens when light hits a gas molecule? _____
15. Which color is absorbed most often? _____

Why is the Sky Blue?

16. Which color gets scattered the most? _____

