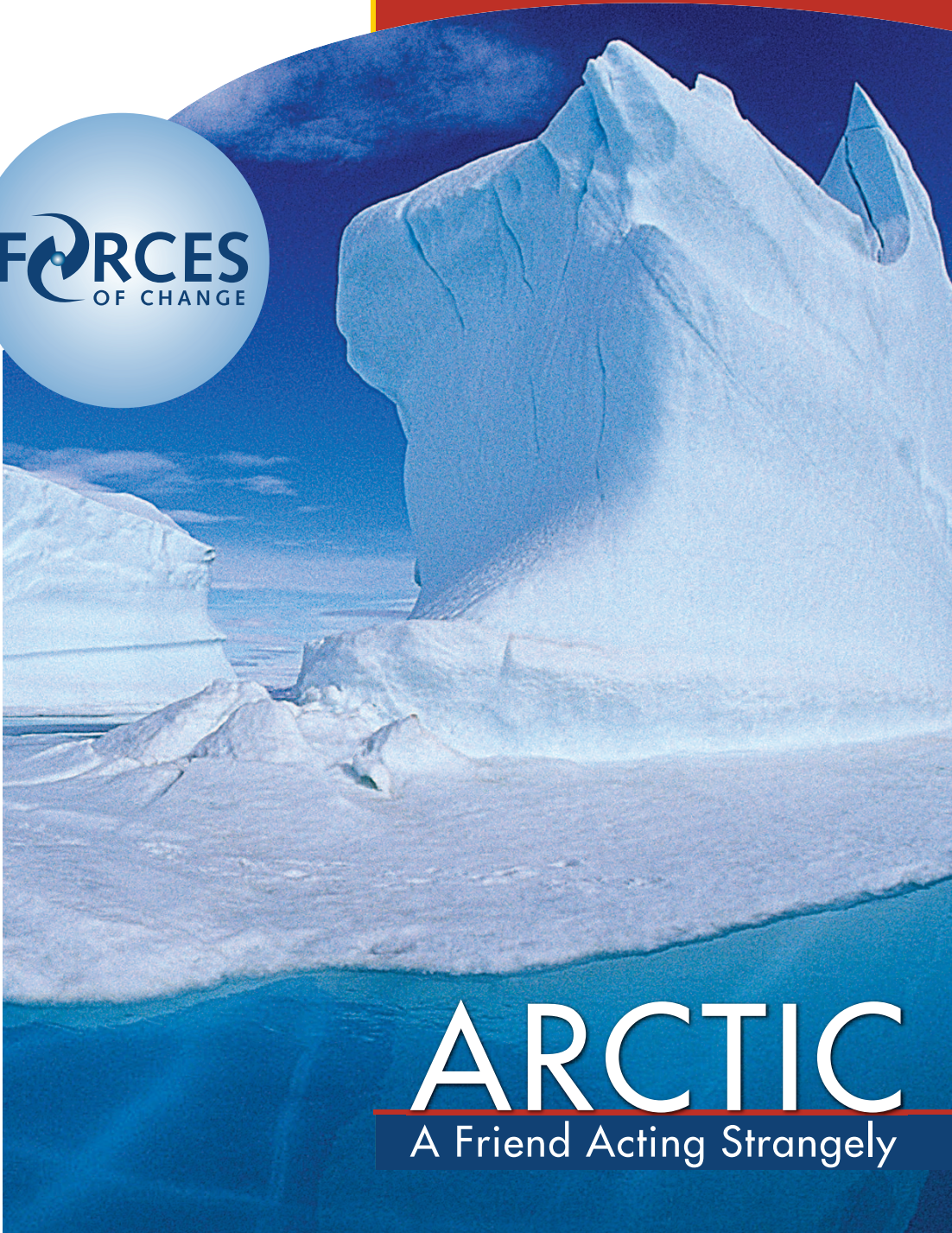


Activity 7
Weather Words



ARCTIC

A Friend Acting Strangely



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

ACTIVITY 7

WEATHER WORDS

HOW MANY WAYS CAN YOU SAY ICE?



Analghu Floating pressure ice ridge. Ice piled higher than neighboring ones. (Pressure ridges form where two pieces of sea ice push together.)



Siingurac Stream of dense ice carried by north or south current or pushed by low tide. Dangerous to walk on.

Illustrations by Vadin Yenani, from the Yupik "Sea Ice Dictionary"

OVERVIEW

Students create word games with weather terms.

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL

4 – 8

ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS

National Science Education Standards

- Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry
- Science and technology in society

ESTIMATED TIME

- One 45-50 minute class period

MATERIALS

- Access to a library or the Internet
- Paper and pen

BACKGROUND

Students may have heard that the Inuit have 100 different words for snow, while English has very few. The former is not surprising because the precise description of weather conditions may mean the difference between a successful hunt, or even life or death.

But English is also richer in "weather words" than you might think. Like Arctic peoples, our language reflects the need to precisely define various weather conditions.

ACTIVITY 7

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- 1 > List and define five terms for precipitation.
- 2 > Create a word game based on precipitation words.

PROCEDURE

- 1 > Ask the class how many words they can think of for precipitation—both liquid and solid. Examples might include: rain, mist, drizzle, downpour, snow, sleet, hail, fog, frost, powder snow mist, ice storm, freezing rain, blizzard, showers, hurricane, thunderstorm, cyclone, typhoon, nor'easter, monsoon, slush, flurry, sprinkle, whiteout.
- 2 > Ask students why does English include various terms for wet weather? Why is it important to know if precipitation is hail or rain or snow?
- 3 > Divide class into small groups.
 - Either at the library or on the Internet research terms for precipitation. List and define at least 15.
 - Create weather word games such as jumbles, word search, crossword puzzles to exchange with classmates.

ASSESSMENT IDEAS

- Have students do each other's puzzles to test them out.
- Have students make a presentation to a younger class about weather words and present their easier puzzles to them to try out.

RESOURCES

<http://www.weatherwizkids.com/Weather%20Words.htm>

<http://www.bom.gov.au/info/wwords/#RAIN>

ACTIVITY 7 > TEACHER REFERENCES

Teacher Reference #1: Sample Word Search with Hidden Message

HIDDEN WEATHER MESSAGE



BLIZZARD

ICE

SLUSH

FLURRY

PERMAFROST

SNOWSNOW

GLACIER

SEA

hidden phrase:

HAIL

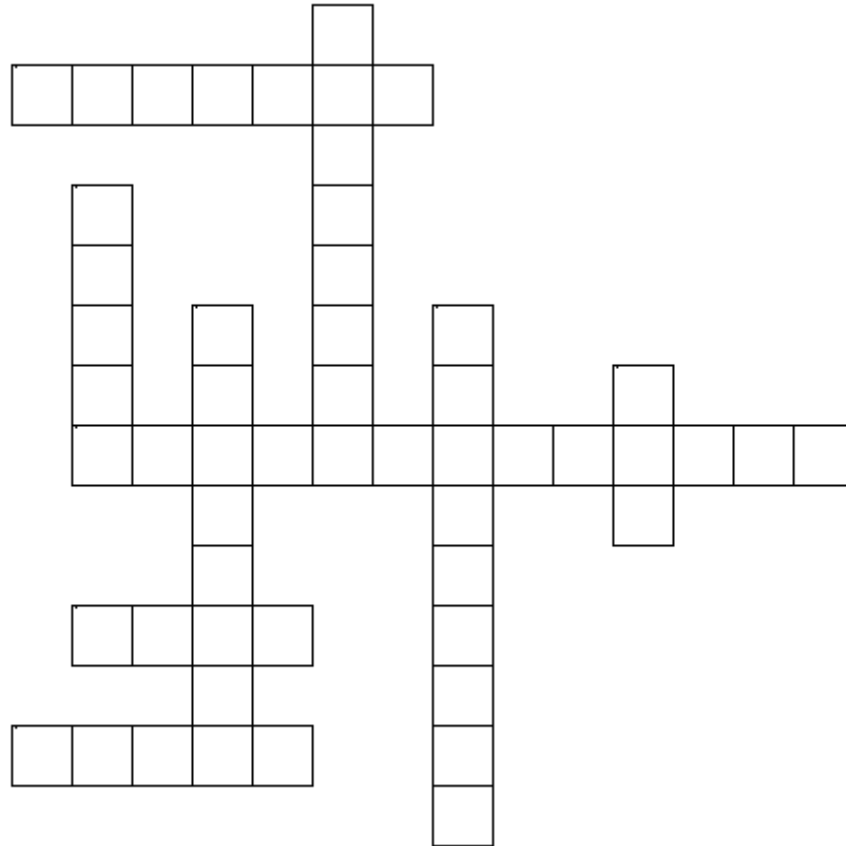
SLEET

_____ ' _____

ACTIVITY 7 > **TEACHER REFERENCES**

Teacher Reference #2: Sample Crossword Puzzle

STORMY WEATHER



ACROSS

2. light rain
(answer: drizzle)
7. contains lightning
(answer: thunderstorm)
8. can be the size of a golf ball
(answer: hail)
9. very wet snow
(answer: slush)

DOWN

1. heavy snowstorm
(answer: blizzard)
3. frozen rain
(answer: sleet)
4. light snow
(answer: flurries)
5. tropical storm
(answer: hurricane)
6. lots of this in San Francisco
(answer: fog)