

Ask Me About Weather & Climate!

Today, an instructor from the Discovery Museum in Acton visited my classroom and led a program about weather and climate. We learned to use the skills of a scientist to make observations, ask questions, make predictions, and test out our ideas. We also used the skills of an engineer developing and testing a solution to a problem. We discussed the difference between weather and climate of a region. Ask me to tell you about the climate of Arizona and what I packed on my imaginary trip to Phoenix? Ask me to tell you about the mini shelter I designed and constructed to protect our “class pet” from the rain. I can tell you which materials I used, how I built my shelter, and what I might do differently the next time.

I had fun creating my mini shelter during this workshop. Encourage me to continue to think about the impact weather and climate has on our daily lives as I take on the following challenge:

Shelter from the Elements

What you need:

- a small stuffed or plastic toy animal
- materials for constructing a shelter for your animal. You can use items from around the house or outdoors such as: recycled cardboard, paper, plastic containers, sticks, rocks, grass, leaves.

What you do:

1. Imagine where the toy animal you have selected might live. It could be a place in your home, outside in a yard or park, or it could be a completely made-up, fantastical location.
2. Determine the climate of the location—real or imagined. What is the weather like throughout the year? Is it warm, cold, intensely sunny, wet and rainy, dry and arid? What type of a shelter will your animal need living in this climate throughout the year?
3. Design a shelter that will keep the animal comfortable and well protected in that climate, no matter the weather.

