

# The ABC's and Colorful Weather

**Discipline:** Language Arts and Science

**Grade:** Early Childhood-1<sup>st</sup> Grade

**Time:** 1 hr

## **Introduction:**

Letters, colors, and weather are often taught in isolation. Learning is enhanced when these concepts are taught together through an engaging lesson.



## **Anticipated Student Learning Outcomes**

- Students will identify different letters.
- Students will investigate colors associated with different weather conditions.
- Students will create an artistic representation to highlight their understanding of the three concepts.

## **CRISPA**

Connections

Risk-Taking

Imagination

Sensory Experience

Perceptivity

Active Engagement

## **Overview**

This interdisciplinary lesson teaches students about colors, letters, and weather. Concepts and letter recognition skills are taught through the arts particularly song, movement, and visual representations.

## **Materials**

- Michael Stanwood's *Of Colors & Letters & Weather* song on his CD *Living Together on Planet Earth* (track 12)
- CD player or comparable device
- Lyrics to the song *Of Colors & Letters & Weather*
- Cardboard pieces or letter templates
- Various art materials and resources

## **Evaluation**

Students will be evaluated throughout the lesson in a variety of informal and formal ways. Student active engagement and participation in discussions provide an informal assessment of their understanding. The construction of the letter displaying color and depicting weather conditions acts as an artistic representation of students' understandings.

## Suggested Procedures

### **Introduction**

1. Explain to students that today, they are going to learn about colors, letters, and weather. Engage the students in a class discussion and ask:
    - What are colors? Can anyone name a color? Can anyone show me a color? Do certain colors sometimes remind you of something?
  2. Give the students index card with a certain color on it. Ask them to look at the card for fifteen seconds. Have students share back:
    - How the color made them feel
    - What the color reminded them of
    - If the color made them want to move a certain way
    - If the color reminded them of a particular sound
  3. Assign each student to a partner or a small group. Give each group of students an assigned weather condition. Ask the children to create a brief skit about the weather condition. For example, if the weather is *snowy* the children could be making a snowman, shivering, and enjoying a mug of hot chocolate. Provide time for the students to create and perform their skits. Ask the audience members to guess what the weather condition is.
    - Suggested Weather Conditions:
      - Rain
      - Snow
      - Hot
      - Cloudy
      - Windy
      - Hail
      - Thunderstorm
- Throughout all of these activities, students' prior knowledge can be assessed and the lesson can be modified to meet their needs. For example, if students do not know typical weather conditions, you may wish to spend more time on this area as an entire class before placing them in groups.

### **Activity:**

1. Tell the students that they are going to listen to a song about colors, letters, and weather. Play the song once and allow students to move with the music, close their eyes, and imagine the words, or simply relax.
2. Display the lyrics of the song on chart paper, an overhead transparency, or a on a SmartBoard. You may wish to emphasize certain words (for example, use the appropriate color marker for the various colored names) or utilize pictures (such as a summer sky) to

- enhance student understanding of the words of the song. Play the song a few more times with the words posted so that students can follow along.
- If you have a word wall in your classroom, you may wish to post some of the words from the song to the wall.
3. Explain to students that they are going to create a visual that represents the relationship between colors, letters, and weather. Students will create a large cardboard letter representing the various letters in the song. Each letter will be decorated depicting the weather, utilizing the represented colors.
    - Example: For the letter G, a student may decorate their cardboard utilizing gray tissue paper (fog) and gray clay (rain).
    - Activity Considerations:
      - Will you distribute cardboard cut-outs of each letter to the students, or have students make their own from large cardboard pieces?
      - Will the students make all of the letters represented in the song, or just one each?
      - What resources will you have available to the students to decorate their letter?
  4. When students are completed with their artistic creations, have them sing through the song again this time utilizing their creations during the appropriate portion of the song.

### Possible Extensions

1. Present students' letter creations and song for other classrooms or parents
2. Create a skit utilizing a specific letter, color, and weather condition. Incorporate other elements that relate to the provided letter.
3. Keeps a weather journal recording temperatures and observable weather patterns.
4. Explore colors (such as primary and complementary) through painting.
5. Write or tell a brief story about the elements presented on the letter. Share in an author chair.

### Appendix

*Of Colors, Letters, & Weather* Song Lyrics by Michael Stanwood

Letter templates

### Additional Resources

*Oh Say Can You Say What's the Weather Today?: All About Weather* (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library), Tish Rabe and Aristides Ruiz

*Snow Joe* (Rookie Ready to Learn: Seasons and Weather), Carol Greene

B001HCS6LA

*What's the Weather Like Today? (Learn to Read Science Series; Earth Science)*, Rozanne Lanczak Williams and Adjoa J. Burrowes (Jun 1, 1994)

*Alphabet All-Stars (A great way to learn the ABC's!)*, Scott Gordon

B006NQ8FO8

*Colors (Touch, Look, and Learn!)*, Sarah Davis (Dec 20, 2010)

*Of Colors, Letters, & Weather*  
by  
**Michael Stanwood**

G- is for the color gray. Like the fog rolling in or rainy day.

B- is for the color blue. Under a summer sky and I'm playing with you.

R- is for the color red. And it's sometimes a sunset before I go to bed.

W- is for the color white. When it lays on the trees after snowing all night.

We love all the colors of the rainbow. And we love all the changes in the weather. We love all the letters in the alphabet. And we love to put them all together. (x3)

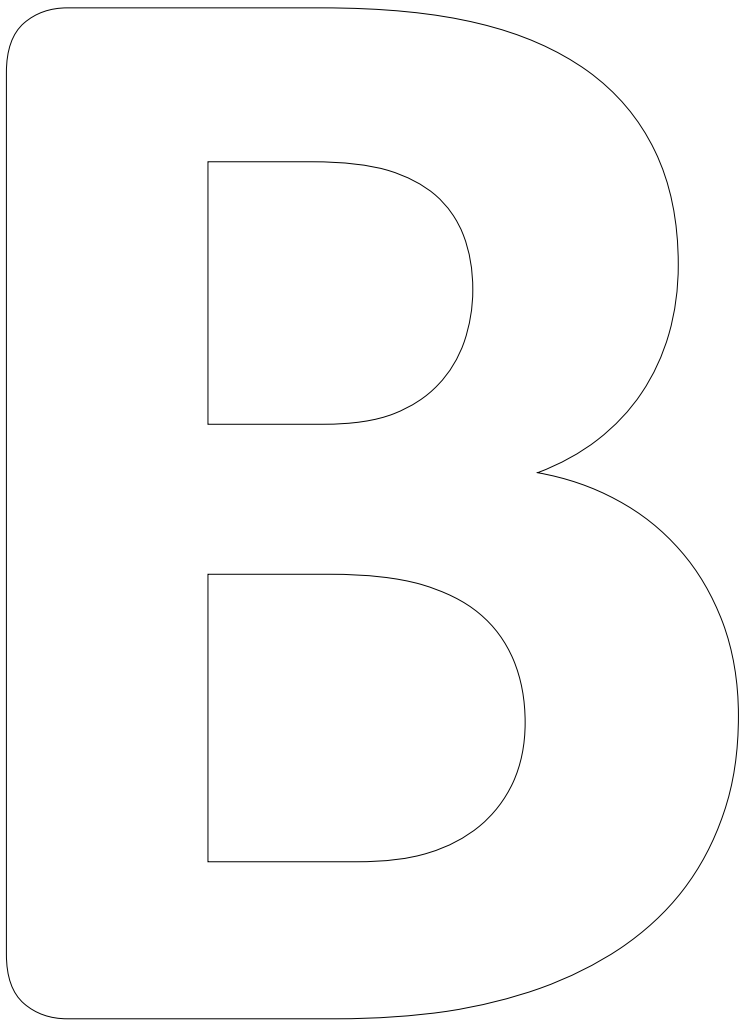


# Letter Templates



You may wish to use a photocopier to further enlarge letter templates. Tape the templates to cardboard pieces, trace, and cut out.





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