

Winter Kids
WINTER GAMES



PLAY
Book
2025



WEATHER



This Winter Games PLAYBook belongs to:

WELCOME to the 8th Annual WinterKids Winter Games!

These 4 weeks bring the WinterKids mission of helping children develop healthy lifelong habits through education and fun, outdoor winter activity to life for over 10,000 students and teachers. Thank you for being a part of this fantastic program!

This year's theme is **WEATHER** and everyone will become little scientists, going outside and collecting weather data every school day. Each week will have a different weather topic of focus for our learning and adventures outside as we work our way through **TEMPERATURE**, **PRECIPITATION**, **WIND**, and **CLOUDS**, all guided along by this PLAYBook.

As the **WEATHER** changes, and as our winters change, WinterKids is here with you to adapt and help answer questions along the journey. Best of luck in this year's competition, and most of all – keep having fun!



WinterKids Mission

"WinterKids helps children develop healthy lifelong habits through education and fun, outdoor winter activity."

Take the adventure further!

The WinterKids App is your family's ticket to **outdoor** winter fun!



Winter Games Oath

"In the name of Moving, Learning, and Exploring **outdoors**; we promise to take part in these Winter Games, honoring and abiding by the rules and the spirit of fairness, inclusion, and equality. Together we stand in solidarity and commit our school community to playing The Games with creativity, with integrity, and without discrimination. We do this for the health of our school and to make our world a better place through the enjoyment of the **outdoors**."

ACTIVITY 2

The “Great” Heat Escape

Are you ready to bring the heat?!?! For this outdoor activity from the Learn Outside Guide, you will either be playing the role of HEAT trying to escape our atmosphere or CARBON DIOXIDE trying to keep the HEAT here – all in an active lesson about the Earth’s greenhouse effect.

To describe the greenhouse effect, we need only look at our planetary neighbors in the solar system. Mars does not have enough of a greenhouse effect so during the day it gets very hot and at night it gets very cold because it does not have enough of an atmospheric blanket to hold in its heat at night. Our other neighbor, Venus, has too much of a greenhouse effect, so it is always so hot that even metal melts on its surface, because it has too thick of an atmospheric

blanket and holds in too much heat. Earth has just the right amount of atmospheric blanket so our greenhouse effect holds in enough of the day’s heat so that everything doesn’t get too cold at night but it lets out enough heat, so things don’t get too hot during the day. As we add more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from actions like burning fossil fuels, our atmospheric blanket gets thicker, our greenhouse effect gets stronger, and our planet’s **TEMPERATURE** gets warmer.



Learn Outside Guide
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WEEK 1: Temperature

ACTIVITY 1 Daily Weather Observations

During this year's Winter Games, everyone is going to become scientists – collecting observations and recording data. Every school day you will need to get **OUTSIDE** and take **WEATHER** measurements to be recorded in the week's data table below. Every week, as you learn more about the **WEATHER**, you will add more information to your daily **WEATHER** observations. Collecting data is the most important step in science, because without that information we can't create **WEATHER** forecasts or observe changes in our Earth's climate. For Week 1, you will keep track of the date, **TEMPERATURE**, and have space to mention any personal **WEATHER** observations that catch your eye.



Submit your Opening Ceremony Video for this week's **Moment of the Week.**

DATE	TEMP (°F)	OBSERVATIONS



ACTIVITY 3

Getting In The Know – Global Warming

Just like you, the Earth has a **TEMPERATURE**. Your fingers may get chilly when outside in the winter and your feet may get hot walking barefoot across the driveway in the summer, but when YOUR body temperature is taken it stays the same. If your body temperature rises, even just 2 or 3 degrees, it means you have a fever, are quite sick and may need to have a doctor or nurse help you get feeling better again.

Much like you have a body temperature, the Earth has a planet **TEMPERATURE**. Different areas of the Earth can get cold in the winter and hot in the summer, or even cold and stormy one day and warm and sunny another day all in the same week – but the Earth's planet temperature remains the same and has for as long as human beings have lived here. Certain activities are causing the Earth's planet **TEMPERATURE** to rise just a couple of

degrees, but like us, that is enough to give it a fever - but ALL of us are able to help in trying to get the Earth better again.

WEATHER is what's happening around us in the atmosphere on a daily basis – the things we are observing and recording over the 4 weeks of the Winter Games. Climate is the long-term conditions we have come to expect, like cold winters and hot summers in Maine – and include our Earth's planet **TEMPERATURE**. Understanding our warming climate helps us better understand the changes we see in our daily **WEATHER**.

But first things first as we continue to explore **TEMPERATURE** this week: research, lookup, find out, what is your body **TEMPERATURE** supposed to be AND what is the Earth's latest planet **TEMPERATURE**?

**BODY
TEMPERATURE**



**PLANET
TEMPERATURE**



ACTIVITY 4

Weather Word Search

Search up, down, and diagonally for the **WEATHER** vocabulary words listed below that we'll be using during the Winter Games.



C	F	S	Q	D	L	W	P	T	A	Y	B	E	R	W
F	L	I	T	N	X	H	R	M	J	Y	L	T	F	E
W	T	I	P	Q	Y	S	E	V	Z	Z	B	G	V	A
L	L	E	M	T	Z	K	C	L	E	A	R	S	B	T
E	C	X	M	A	Y	I	I	A	U	R	E	L	W	H
R	G	O	O	P	T	Y	P	F	T	H	E	E	H	E
T	N	C	V	S	E	E	I	O	T	T	Z	E	A	R
Y	A	L	E	T	L	R	T	G	O	O	E	T	I	Z
Y	C	O	R	O	Q	W	A	D	V	Z	Q	R	L	C
K	P	U	C	R	E	U	T	T	T	V	D	D	E	U
V	O	D	A	M	D	N	I	X	U	W	I	N	D	D
Q	R	S	S	V	L	R	O	F	A	R	B	L	W	Z
S	O	H	T	U	C	A	N	G	I	K	E	J	T	K
M	H	Z	Y	O	K	I	Q	S	R	C	N	C	K	H
A	R	S	N	O	W	N	B	W	A	Y	W	U	P	K

AIR
BREEZE
CLEAR
CLIMATE
CLOUDS

HAIL
OVERCAST
PRECIPITATION
RAIN
SCATTERED

SLEET
SNOW
STORM
TEMPERATURE
WEATHER
WIND

ACTIVITY 5 *Friendship Friday!***Being Friendly to our Planet: Lights Out for Movie Night**

Plan out a movie night. Gather up family or friends to watch one of your favorite movies, however you watch – streaming or from a disc. Get all your snacks ready and get everyone comfortable with seating and blankets, because once the movie starts ALL the lights go out until the end of the movie!

Electricity is one of the ways we use energy, and depending on how your area makes that electricity, some of it comes from burning fossil fuels like natural gas – which contributes to our warming planet. A fun movie night in the dark can serve as a good reminder about how we use energy and about making good choices when it comes to turning off lights when we leave the room and shutting down

things like computers, tablets, and TVs when not using them. These habits also help to lower our home's electricity bills. During the winter months, the sun sets earlier so we rely more on lights, so it's a great time to remind ourselves to use those lights wisely and not light up rooms we're not using.

The switch to LED lighting has helped reduce light's energy needs, but we must help keep our energy use efficient as our state and utilities work to transition electricity production towards 100% renewable resources like solar and wind power. Have you seen solar panels in your town?

**WHAT MOVIE
DID YOU WATCH?**





snackpals®

Fun fuel for kids.

hannafordsnackpals.com



WEEK 1 GOING FURTHER: DIY FROZEN SUNCATCHERS

Collect natural treasures and freeze them in water overnight to make a colorful winter suncatcher!

Complete the weekly activities to start earning your Snack Pals Winter Games Badge and unlock secret coloring pages!

To start now,
scan here:



**PLAY-ALONG
TRACK!**

We are building a photo album of your Winter Games Play- Along Track fun!

All submitted photos are automatically entered into our prize giveaway. Use the QR code to link to photo upload instructions.



Check the WinterKids Winter Games Facebook Group to see the submitted photos.

CONGRATULATIONS
ON COMPLETING **WEEK 1!**



WEEK 1

Remember to upload your Moment of the Week (MOW) for the chance to get the bonus point!

This week's MOW:
Opening Ceremony Video Edit (15 sec)

Kicking off the Winter Games really sets the tone for the rest of the competition. Capture video of your school celebrating the spirit of the Games and this year's theme of **WEATHER**, and edit it down to 15 seconds or less. If you edit the video with music, please select something that will allow it to be posted on social media. All MOW submissions will be sent to the judging panel **WITHOUT** the school or town name included. The judge's panel is made up of representatives of the Winter Games sponsors. The judges will vote on these anonymous videos with the winning video getting this week's bonus point. Each school's MOW votes are tracked for use in the case of any tie breakers (other than a 1st place tie).

Use the QR code for Week 1 on this page to link to the Winter Games site for entering your Week 1 rubric scores, your supporting evidence, and to upload your MOW video. Everything **MUST** be turned in by **5 PM SUNDAY** to be counted.

Tune into WMTW Channel 8 between 4:00 - 4:30pm and 6:00 - 6:30pm on Tuesday to see the Moment of the Week winner or log on to watch at wmtw.com.



Check out the leaderboard at WinterKids.org on Wednesday to see an update on how your school is doing.