

Lesson 4

Idaho State Park Weather

Theme: “Whether I go depends upon the weather.”

Content Objectives:

Students will:

- Gather information about the weather of one state park for one week to ten days
- Compile the data onto a bar graph
- Communicate the data results to the class
- Find the average high and low temperatures for the time period
- Students will use a calculator to verify the averages
- Conclude whether the park would have been a good vacation choice during that week
- Determine, based on the information collected, if there would have been a better time and when it would be to visit the chosen park
- Determine, based on the information shared, where a better vacation choice would have been at that time

Suggested Level:

Fourth (4th) Grade

Standards Correlation:

- Language Arts
 - o Standard 2: Comprehension/Interpretation 2.2
- Mathematics
 - o Standard 1: Number and Operation 1.3
 - o Standard 2: Concepts and Principles of Measurement 2.1
 - o Standard 5: Data Analysis, Probability, and Statistics 5.1, 5.2, 5.5
- Health
 - o Standard 4: Consumer Health 4.1
 - o Standard 5: Mental and Emotional Wellness 5.1
- Physical Education
 - o Standard 3: Physically Active Lifestyle 3.1
 - o Standard 4: Personal Fitness 4.1
- Science
 - o Standard 1: Nature of Science 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.8

Suggested Time Allowance:

Two 1-hour sessions

Materials:

- Idaho State Parks and Recreation Guide (One for each student, if possible)
- Idaho Official Highway Map (One for each student, if possible)
- “Idaho State Park Temperature and Condition Summary” Grid Sheet
- Computers with internet access
- Student calculators
- Red and blue pens or pencils for each student
- Pocket folders (portfolios)

Preparation:

- Order **Idaho State Parks and Recreation Guides** (Free from IDPR)
- Order the **Idaho Official Highway Maps** (Free from Idaho Tourism)
- Make copies of “Idaho State Park Temperature and Condition Summary” Grid Sheet (one per student)
- Bookmark Internet Sites with weather information for city or town nearest Idaho State Parks
- Calculators for students to use
- Pocket folders (each student’s portfolio)

Procedures:

Session 1:

1. Allow students to briefly look at the “Idaho State Parks and Recreation Guide.
2. Each student may choose a different park. Have them specify why they chose that park, predict what the weather will be like for the week, and locate it on the “Idaho State Parks and Recreation Guide” or the “Idaho Official Highway Map”.

3. Show students how to find current and extended weather forecasts on the internet. Bookmark the page (ie. www.weather.com 10 day forecast for highs, lows and precipitation.) You may either do this over a one week period by checking daily weather reports for the park area or have the students print out the projected forecast and create the bar graph from the data provided.
4. Demonstrate how to record the information gathered on the "Idaho State Park Temperature and Condition" Grid Sheet. The grid sheet provided can be used for either Fahrenheit or Celsius. Indicate above the grid which temperature measurement is used. Use red pens for highs, blue pens for lows and one symbol each day for primary weather condition (sun for sunny, rain drop for rain, cloud for cloudy, snowflake for snow, etc.).

Session 2:

1. Students will find the average temperature. (Add all of the high temperatures together and divide the number of recorded high temperatures. Do the same for the low temperatures.)
2. Each student will show where their state park is located on the "Idaho State Parks and Recreation Guide" or the "Idaho Official Highway Map".
3. They will present the data they collected and recorded and present their conclusion on whether that particular park would have been a good choice for a vacation that week. If not, when would a better time be to visit that particular park.
4. The class may decide on what some of the ideal park destinations would have been for that week.

Assessment Strategies:

- Class participation
- Bar graph containing collected data
- Presentation of data
- Conclusion based on data results

Extension Activities:

- Refer to Idaho State Park 100th Anniversary Activity Book for additional activities.
- Average the highs and lows of the recorded period.
- Record in both Fahrenheit and Celsius.

Resources:

- Idaho State Parks Guidebook** (Paperback) **Author:** Bill Loftus **Publisher:** Tribune Pub Co **Date Published:** 1989 **ISBN-13:** 9780960750658
- Idaho Official Highway Maps FREE** Idaho Tourism (208) 334-2470
- Idaho State Parks and Recreation Guide FREE** Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Regional Service Center contact information: PO Box 83720 • Boise, ID 83720-0065 • (208) 334-4199 or online at www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Homepage** www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov

Headquarters in your area:

North Idaho Field Bureau Chief
Idaho Dept. Parks & Recreation
2885 Kathleen Avenue, Suite 1
Coeur d'Alene ID 83815
208-769-1511
Fax: 208-769-1418

South Idaho Field Bureau Chief
Idaho Dept. Parks & Recreation
5657 Warm Springs Avenue
P.O. Box 83720
Boise ID 83720-0065
208-514-2400
FAX 208-334-3741

East Idaho Field Bureau Chief
Idaho Dept. of Parks & Recreation
4279 Commerce Circle, Suite B
Idaho Falls ID 83401
208-525-7121
FAX 208-525-7123

