

## Baseball Weather

**Winning Teacher:** Joanna Friedland

**School Name:** Melvin H Kreps Middle School - East Windsor, NJ

**Grade Taught** - 6<sup>th</sup>

**Subject** - Earth Science

**Objective:** The students will learn

- how to predict the weather
- how to gather information on the weather
- what is involved in a typical weather report
- the limitations of and difficulty in predicting the weather
- what effect, if any, the weather has on a Phillies game

Time needed to complete lesson: 1 hour set up and then on going for a small part of following lessons with a summary at the end.

New Jersey Core Curriculum standards

**STANDARD 5.8 (Earth Science)** All students will gain an understanding of the structure, dynamics, and geophysical systems of the earth.

### B. Atmosphere and Weather

1. Describe conditions in the atmosphere that lead to weather systems and how these systems are represented on weather maps.

Grade level 6 - 8

Materials - local weather maps, newspapers - The Philadelphia Inquirer and / or Daily News. The Phillies schedule at [www.phillies.com](http://www.phillies.com) , internet access, construction paper, map of the USA.

### Procedure

How does the weather affect baseball? Does it affect performance? Ask the students to give their ideas. Weather has an important influence on how a baseball travels when it is hit. Air pressure, wind, temperature and humidity are important.

Look at local Philadelphia weather information and ask the class to predict, using their knowledge of weather systems, what the weather will be like for the Phillies up coming home games. Create a chart, weather map or a journal noting the predictions including things like temperature, air pressure, wind speed and direction, sky condition, and precipitation etc

Look at the results using [www.phillies.com](http://www.phillies.com) and the actual weather conditions using [www.philly.com](http://www.philly.com) over the next few days. Were the predictions correct? If not, why do you think it was incorrect? How did the Phillies perform? Were there any patterns in their performance?

### **Extension**

The same exercise could be done with away games, for example in Denver or Chicago. What geographical features could be influencing the weather in other cities and how could this affect the game?