

CONVERSATION CONNECTION ACTIVITIES

TOPIC	Weather
ACTIVITIES:	<p>1. OPENING ACTIVITY Directions: Choose one of the following openers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch and discuss the weather report at http://www.wesh.com/weather/index.html. ○ Read and discuss the newspaper's weather page. <p>2. VOCABULARY-BUILDING ACTIVITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review vocabulary words – definitions and pronunciation. ○ Discuss expressions. ○ Practice pronouncing reductions. <p>3. CONVERSATION STARTERS – Small group discussion questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Choose a facilitator for each group to throw out questions to promote discussion, or post each group of questions by topic on an overhead or smart classroom computer. Allow sufficient time for small groups to view and discuss questions. ○ Encourage students to generate their own follow-up questions. ○ Rotate the topics so that all groups have an opportunity to discuss them. <p>4. CLOSING ACTIVITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review song lyrics for “You’ve Got a Friend” or “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head.” ○ Discuss use of reductions <u>gotta</u> and <u>fallin’</u>. Explain colloquialism “ain’t” in informal conversation. ○ Listen to the song. ○ Sing along with the song.
VOCABULARY EXPRESSIONS REDUCTIONS	<p><u>WORD LIST</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. weather 2. forecast 3. climate 4. season 5. winter 6. spring 7. summer 8. fall or autumn

9. frost
10. typhoons
11. hurricane
12. myths
13. rain
14. downpour
15. scattered showers

EXPRESSIONS

1. *Raining cats and dogs* – rain very heavily
2. *Rain or shine* – no matter what the situation
3. *Rain out* – Force the cancellation or postponement of some event because of bad weather
4. *Save for a rainy day* – put something aside for a future time of need
5. *Rain on one's parade* – Spoil one's plans
6. *Weather the storm* – live through hardship or difficulties

REDUCTIONS/COLLOQUIALISMS

1. gotta (got to)
2. ain't (aren't)
3. fallin' – worryin' – complainin' (ing)
4. gonna (going to)

NUMBERED HEADS TOGETHER

Increases involvement and accountability.

- A. Divide students into teams of four.
- B. In each team, count off by fours.
- C. The teacher poses a question (definitions of vocabulary words or expressions, current weather forecast, etc.)

Questions about Weather Vocabulary and Expressions:

1. What is the word for the Pacific version of an Atlantic hurricane?
2. A heavy rain shower is a _____.
3. The usual weather pattern for an area is the _____.
4. North American cold weather occurs during the _____ season.
5. What expression would be used to say that it was raining heavily?
6. What kind of climate does Florida have?
7. What might be a typical forecast for a summer day in Central Florida?

**ADDITIONAL
ACTIVITY**

- D. Think time -- put your heads together, decide on the best answer, make sure everyone knows the answer.
- E. The teacher calls a number (spin spinner, roll dice, etc.). Ex. All “ones” stand. Use active participation routine: sample, sample and signal, choral, written (slates).

Possible Applications:

Review

Check for understanding

Good for comprehension and knowledge questions

**MATERIALS/
ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES:**

- **Questions:** Conversation Starters - List of questions <http://iteslj.org/questions/weather.html>
- **Song:** “You’ve Got a Friend” Lyrics and music - Carole King and Singer - James Taylor
http://www.lyricsfreak.com/j/james+taylor/youve+got+a+friend_20069226.html
- **Song:** “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head” - B.J. Thomas
<http://www.stlyrics.com/lyrics/in-laws/raindropskeepfallinonmyhead.htm>
- **Weather Reports:**
Central Florida weather report: <http://www.wesh.com/weather/index.html> (short video report)
The Weather Channel: <http://www.weather.com>
- **Reading:** Newspaper’s weather page
- **Dictionaries:**
<http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/dictionary/dictionaryhome.aspx> (with audio)
<http://www.yourdictionary.com> (with audio)
- **Reductions:**
 1. Etymology, pronunciation, and part of speech explained at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reduction_\(linguistics\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reduction_(linguistics))
 2. Voice of America transcript - *May 14, 2000 - Slangman: Reductions*
<http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/archive/2002-02/a-2002-02-16-3-1.cfm>
- **Colloquialism:** Explanation for *ain’t* http://www.smarttechwriting.com/2006/10/wordsmith_aint.html
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colloquialism>

CONVERSATION STARTERS – Group discussion questions by topic

TOPIC 1 - LIKES & DISLIKES

1. What are the seasons?
2. What's your favorite season and why?
3. Which do you like better hot weather or cold weather?
4. What is your favorite winter activity?
5. Have you ever seen snow?
6. Do you like snow?
7. What is the hottest season?
8. What is the coldest season?
9. Have you ever seen snow?
10. What kind of climate do you prefer when choosing a place to go on vacation?
11. What is the best season to get married?
12. Can you think of other activities in which one season may be better than another?
13. In your opinion, which season is the most beautiful?
14. Which season is the most comfortable for you?
15. Why do you think spring (or another season) is the most beautiful season?
16. How does weather affect your attitude?
17. How does weather affect your lifestyle?

TOPIC 2 - WEATHER IN YOUR COUNTRY

1. What is the weather like in your country for each season?
2. Do you have snow in your country? (Do you have hail?)
3. What crops are produced in which seasons in your country?
4. What month gets the most rain in your country?
5. About how many inches of rain does your hometown get per year?
6. What's the average temperature in your country in the summer time?
7. How about in the winter?
8. Do you have many disasters in you country which are caused by weather?
9. Do you get tornadoes where you are from?
10. Do you get typhoons or hurricanes in your country?
11. Have you ever been in a typhoon or a hurricane?
12. Do you have frost there?
13. Have you ever been stranded in a snowstorm? What did you do?
14. Do you think weather affects the way people feel?
15. How can extreme weather conditions affect the economy and social life in countries?

16. Are there any special traditions associated with different season in your country?
17. Do you know any interesting myths or stories about weather?
18. Are there any idiomatic expressions associated with weather in your native language?

TOPIC 3 - WEATHER REPORTS

1. What are the different kinds of weather?
2. Where do you get your weather information?
3. Do you depend on the weather reports on TV?
4. How does TV secure weather reports?
5. Why is it important to know future weather conditions in advanced?
6. When would knowing tomorrow's weather change your plans?
7. Have you ever checked the weather for your city on the Internet?
8. What time of year has the best weather where you live?
9. Have you ever been caught in bad weather? If so, what did you do?
10. Do you think weather patterns are changing? If so, why do you think this is?
11. Do you have many disasters in you country which are caused by weather?
12. What month gets the most rain around here?
13. Do you think weather patterns are changing?
14. If so what do you think is causing these changes?
15. What is the relationship between weather and natural disasters?
16. Do you think that in recent years we are losing our four distinct seasons?

Activities developed by: Mirtha O. Martinez Date: 10-16-06