

Forces of Nature



April 2002

ABCXYZ Opening

Personnel: 7 Cub Scouts

Props: Each Cub Scout will need a card with the appropriate letter in large print on the front, and what he must read printed on the back. Remind him to read over the card, and not to let his voice be trapped behind the card as he reads.

Narrator: To study nature is to learn about our environment and how we can protect and preserve it, now and for the future.

Boy "A": "A" is for Action, Take action to keep the world around you at its best. Take no action that will destroy it.

Boy "B": "B" is for Beauty, We are blessed with the beauty of nature all around us.

Boy "C": "C" is for Citizenship, Practice good citizenship by caring about the appearance of your neighborhood and hometown.

Boy "X": " X " is the unknown factor. What will happen if we don't all work together to preserve our environment?

Boy "Y": "Y" is for You!! It is up to you to set the example for others.

Boy "Z": " Z " is for Zest, Go about your projects with zest and enthusiasm. Walk hand in hand with Mother Nature. She will always be your friend.

Weather Opening

Personnel: 7 Cub Scouts

Props: The word W-E-A-T-H-E-R spelled out, one letter to a card.

- W WIND, a forceful power that drives ships and windmills.
- E ELECTRIC flashes of lightening dazzle our eyes.
- A ALTO cumulus clouds look like large white masses of sheep.
- T THUNDER scares little kids and makes Scouts brave.
- H HEAT from the sun on a hot summer day helps make ice cream taste good.
- E EVERY weatherman makes mistakes once in a while.
- R RED sky at night is the sailor's delight. Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning.

The Marvels of Weather Closing

Personnel: Everyone in attendance.

Equipment: Flashlights for Cub Scouts and parents

Cubmaster: Sometimes we complain about the weather. It rains when we want to play outside, or the sun makes the road too hot for bare feet. Yet God, in His wisdom, knows that these things must be so. Instead of complaining, let us marvel at how the weather keeps our beautiful earth alive. Even at night, miracles keep happening. (Room lights are darkened.)

Cubmaster: Everyone turn on your flashlight, shine it up someplace on the ceiling, and hold it very still. Think how beautiful the stars are and how special it will be to see wonderful things like comets race past the earth. Everyone shine your light on mine and follow it as we make our Cub Scout comet. (Move light in unison across the ceiling.)

Cubmaster: Now, spread your light across the ceiling again. As amazing as a star or comet may be, they are no more important to us than the rain that falls upon the earth and gives us life. For it has been said that man owes his very existence to two inches of topsoil and the fact that it rains. Let us rain our lights down upon the floor, turn them off, and all give a silent prayer of thanks. (After about a minute), Amen.

The Cub Spiritometer

Equipment: Spiritometer – a large cut out of a thermometer, with red ribbon or crepe paper to represent the mercury. Loop the ribbon or paper through a slit in the bottom so that it can be raised at the appropriate time. A tape loop under the end of the ribbon or paper will help hold it in the desired spot. Encouraging words (Great! Super! Good Job! Fantastic! etc.) can be written on the side of the thermometer, where the numbers usually are.

Cubmaster: A thermometer is a weather instrument used to measure the increase in air temperature. Advancement measures Cub Scout spirit in our pack. Tonight, we have a special instrument called the “Spiritometer” that will gauge our Cub Scout Spirit and show us which boys have climbed to new heights in advancing through the Cub Scout program. (Show Spiritometer to Pack.)

Cubmaster calls boys and parents forward to receive their awards. Each time an award is given, the red paper is raised a little higher. Judge how high to raise the paper each time by how many awards are to be presented. Congratulate the boy, and let the audience applaud and cheer for him. The red of the Spiritometer should reach the top by the time all the awards are given.

Cubmaster: As you can see, our pack is filled with spirit and red hot on the trail of Cub Scout advancement. (Lead an appropriate cheer for all who have earned awards.)

Raining Awards

Dress in raincoat and boots. Attach awards to raindrops and tape them to the outside of the raincoat. Raindrops with awards can also be attached onto or dangling from the edge of an umbrella. Tell the group that you have come through a downpour to get to the Pack Meeting. Maybe they can help dry you off by removing some of these raindrops. Call up boys and parents. Have parents remove the raindrop from the coat or umbrella and present the award to their son. The raindrop can have a saying written on it such as, “Just dropped by to say how proud we are of you. Congratulations on earning your _____.”

The Sun, the Frost and the Wind

SUN: "I'm Hot!"
FROST: "Bur-r-r-r"
WIND: "Whoosh"
FARMER: "How-dee!"

The SUN, the FROST and the WIND once went out walking together and they met a FARMER. The FARMER bowed politely to them and went on his way.

"It was to me that he was bowing so politely," said the SUN. "He is most afraid of me, because I am the most powerful of us all!"

"You are quite mistaken," said the FROST. "He is most afraid of me, and it was to me that he was bowing so politely."

And the WIND said, "You are both wrong. I am by far the most powerful, and that was why he was bowing to me."

"Why go on arguing about it?" asked the SUN. "Let's go back and ask the FARMER himself!" So they turned back and caught up with the FARMER.

"Tell us, friend FARMER," said the SUN. "To which of us were you bowing so respectfully just now?"

"I was bowing to the WIND," said the FARMER. "To the WIND," repeated the SUN angrily. "Just wait, I'll burn you up one of these days!"

"Don't worry," said the WIND. "I'll blow on you and cool you."

"And I'll smite you with such a FROST that you'll freeze to a stone!" said the FROST.

"Don't be afraid of the FROST either," added the WIND. "I'll stop blowing, and without a WIND, FROST has no strength!"

Rudolph the Red

Scene: Russia.

Characters: Rudolph, his mother, a neighbor.

Mother: "How's the weather outside, Rudolph?"

Rudolph: "It's raining!"

Neighbor: (looking out) "I'd say it's snowing."

Rudolph: (stubbornly) "It's raining!"

Neighbor: "I still believe it's snowing."

Mother: "No, my neighbor, he must be right. Rudolph, the Red, knows rain, dear!"

Crazy Weather

Personnel: 4 boys + more to make sound effects

Equipment: Items to make sound effects (see below), sleeping bags

Scene: Boys are in sleeping bags in a tent for a campout

Boy #1: I thought the weather as supposed to be clear today! But all we've had is wind and rain, all day long.

Boy #2: What's that pounding noise? (sounds of hail) Oh no—it's hailing! The weather couldn't be much worse!

Boy #3: Wow—the wind is getting so bad, I think our tent will soon blow away. (sounds of wind)

Boy #2: Help! Help! There goes our tent. Hang onto your sleeping bag. Watch out! It's raining so hard! (sounds of tent flapping and wind and rain)

Boy #1: This must be a HURRICANE! But how can we be having one in this part of the country?

Boy #3: Someone help me! I can't hang on anymore! It's blowing me away! Help me! Help!

Boy #4: Wake up, wake up, John. It's time to get up and get ready for our campout. I hear we're going to have a clear day.

Boy #1: Oh yeah—sure—right. (to the audience, as the other boys pick up their sleeping bags and walk off) Thank goodness that was just a dream!

APPLAUSERainstorm

To simulate rain, have everyone pat one finger of his left hand with one finger of his right hand. Gradually increase the intensity of the storm by increasing the number of fingers hit together. Hold up the desired number of fingers as the signal. Decrease the number of fingers tapping as the storm passes.

Frozen Cub

Wrap your hands around yourself and say, “Brr-brr, Brr-brr”.

RUN-ONS

Cub #1: Do you ever walk to school in the snow?

Cub #2: Nope.

Cub #1: How about the rain?

Cub #2: Nope.

Cub #1: What about sleet, hail or even sunshine?

Cub #2: Nope.

Cub #1: Then what *do* you walk to school in?

Cub #2: Tennis shoes.

WEB SITES

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/savageplanet/>

Savage Planet - join PBS as they explore the extreme forces of planet Earth. Topics include volcanoes, storms, lightning, and avalanches.

<http://www.discovery.com/news/features/extremesnow/extremesnow.html>

Extreme Snow - facts, photos, and a quiz about snow and the devastating effects of severe snowfalls from Discovery Online.

<http://weathereye.kgan.com/>

Weather Eye - lessons, experiments, and current weather info for kids from grades 2-12. Meet Sunny, learn all about lightning, climate, floods, and more!

<http://www.ucar.edu/40th/webweather/>

Web Weather for Kids - make a thunderstorm, lightning, and a tornado. Also figure out how far away a thunderstorm is using these fun experiments.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J001382F/?tqskip=1>

Natural Disasters - Without Warning - learn a few facts about twisters, earthquakes, and volcanoes. Includes quizzes, from a ThinkQuest Jr. team.

<http://kids.earth.nasa.gov/>

For Kids Only - Earth Science Enterprise - find out how NASA studies the earth's air, land, water, and natural hazards. Includes cool games and activities

BAD WEATHER ACTION SONG

(Tune: If You're Happy)

If it's raining and you know it clap your hands.

If it's raining and you know it clap you hands.

If it's raining and you know it,
Then your drippy clothes will show it,
If it's raining and you know it,
Clap your hands.

If the mud is only knee deep, stamp your feet!

If the mud is only knee deep, stamp your feet!

If the mud is only knee deep,
And you wish that it were hip deep!
If the mud is only knee deep,
Stamp your feet!

If the wind is really blowing, shake your head!

If the wind is really blowing, shake your head!

If the wind is really blowing,
And your bald spot, it is showing,
If the wind is really blowing,
Shake your head!

If the temperature is falling, do all three!

If the temperature is falling, do all three!

If the temperature is falling,
And your spirits are a-dropping,
If the temperature is falling
YOU WILL FREEZE! (shout this line)

CAMPIN' IN THE RAIN

(Tune: Singin' in the Rain)

I'm campin' in the rain, just campin' in the rain.

The tent and the campfire are soggy again.
The clouds in the sky are making me cry.
My waterlogged shoes will never get dry.

All the mud in the place is stuck to my face.

The frogs and the turtles are starting to race.

Oh, what should I do, I need a canoe.
A web footed weasel ran off with my shoe.

I'm campin' in the rain, just campin' in the rain.

The good doctor said I've got water on the brain.

I can't light the fire, I'm stuck in the mire.
The lightning just knocked down the telephone wire.

I'm drownin' in the rain, just drownin' in the rain.

Won't it please stop raining, I hate to complain.

My sleeping bag's wet, I'm starting to fret.
My life jacket wasn't the thing to forget.

I'm campin' in the rain, just campin' in the rain.

What a glorious feeling, someone plugged the drain.

The pre-ci-pi-tate, will now dis-sip-pate.
The sun will soon dry up the puddle I hate.

No more campin' - no campin' in the rain.

Fog-Making Machine

Use a plain glass gallon jug, a rubber or cork stopper to fit it, and a bicycle pump. Put a small amount of water or alcohol (which works even better) in the jug. Bore a hole through the stopper in the mouth of the jug. After a few strokes of the pump, remove the stopper quickly. There will be a loud pop and you will see that a cloud will form in the jug. To get 'fair weather', all you need to do is replace the parts as they were, and pump air back into the jug. The reason the cloud was formed is that by pumping air into the jug, the temperature was raised, making it possible for the air to hold more moisture. When the top was removed, the air expanded and cooled. This cool air could not hold as much moisture, thereby forming a cloud.

Weather Station

Fix a dry pine cone onto a small piece of wood sealing wax or glue. Stick a pin into one of the center scales and place a straw over it. Put the cone out-of-doors, protected from the rain. The straw moves according to the state of the weather. Mark a scale on a piece of wood behind it, i.e. dry/wet. This simple hydrometer was built by nature. The pine cone closes up when it is going to rain, to protect the seeds from damp. The outside of the scales absorbs the moisture in the air, swells up and bends - a process which you can also observe with a piece of paper which is wet on one side.

Tornado in a Bottle

Clean a large clear plastic drink bottle and fill it $\frac{3}{4}$ full with colored water. Fill the rest of the bottle with oil and glitter. Seal the lid with glue. Have the boys swirl the bottles and turn them upside down to see the tornado.

Windbag Hockey

Divide den into two teams. At opposite ends of the room place identical chairs; the space between the front legs is the goal. Both teams get down on all fours in the center of the room, on opposite sides of a (perhaps imaginary) center line, facing each other. The leader starts the game by dropping a ping-pong ball between the opposing players. Both teams then try to blow the ball through the other team's goal. No goalies are used. If the ball hits a player, he goes to the "penalty box" for one minute.

Variation: Use two balls.

Duplication

This is a good game for getting boys interested in nature. In advance, gather from the area about ten common nature objects, such as rocks, seeds, pinecones, leaves, etc. Lay the objects out on a tray, and cover them with a neckerchief. Tell the Cub Scouts that under the neckerchief are ten natural objects that can be found nearby. Lift the neckerchief and let them look for about 30 seconds. Tell them to try to remember what they see. Then ask the players to hunt for identical items. Allow 10 to 15 minutes for the search. Then hold up each object, one at a time, telling them something about it, and ask if anyone found one like it. Be careful not to use scarce items.

Fire and Ice

Choose one person to stand in the center while everyone else mills around him. The person in the center calls out, "Ice!" and everyone else freezes in their tracks. If the person in the center sees anyone move, he calls out that person's name, and the person who moved is out for the remainder of the round. When the center person doesn't see anyone moving, he calls out "Fire!" and everyone begins to mill around until he calls out, "Ice!" again. The last person left besides the caller is the winner of the round, and gets to be the caller for the next round.

Covered Wagons

(I'll admit this is a bit of a stretch for the theme, so perhaps you could talk about how the covered wagon protected its passengers from the forces of nature!)

For each you will need:

- 2 Toothpicks
- 1 Toothpick (broken in half)
- 4 Lifesavers
- 2 Large marshmallows
- 1 Fig Newton
- 4 Gumdrops

Push the 2 toothpicks through the narrowest dimension of Fig Newton at front and back to form the axles. Place the two marshmallows on their sides on top; hold them in place with the 2 toothpick halves. Put the Lifesavers on the axles for wheels, securing them in place with the gumdrops.

Erupting Volcano Cake

Cake rounds (or angel food cakes) are stacked to form a volcano shape that erupts delicious red "lava"!

You will need:

- Six 8" baked round cakes (whatever flavor(s) you like)
- Brown and green frosting
- 1 Fresh egg with shell scrubbed clean
- 1 Small juice glass (1 1/2" diameter x 3" tall is ideal) or empty (& clean) tomato paste can
- 1 Small pkg red gelatin
- 1 Small bottle lemon juice
- 1 Tablespoon bicarbonate of soda

Make or buy cakes. Use the glass or can to cut out a hole in the center of two of the cakes. These will be the top two layers. Trim 5 of the cakes into successively smaller rounds, stacking them atop the untrimmed layer to make the volcano shape; make the top two layers (with the holes) the smallest.

Now frost the cake, smoothing out the small step-like edges to create a more natural look. Use chocolate frosting for the whole cake, then use green here and there to resemble vegetation.

Make the gelatin according to package directions. Let cool 15 minutes. When the gelatin is still warm (not hot), fill glass or can 1/2 full. Pour in enough lemon juice so that the glass is nearly

full (about ½” from the top). Place the glass down in the cake so the lip of the glass is flush with the top of the cake.

When you are ready to serve the cake, add the bicarbonate of soda to the glass and stir for just 1-2 seconds. The gelatin will immediately pour out of the top of the glass and down the sides of the volcano.

Alternate method:

Instead of stacking cake rounds to form a conical pyramid, just make or buy 2 angel food cakes. Slice the top 3” off of one and place it on the other to form the volcano shape. Cut off the square edge of the top layer to achieve the round mountain effect.

Stuff waxed paper or aluminum foil into the lower cake hole to support the juice glass.