Clouds, Rain, Snow, and Ice

All clouds are made of small drops of water called droplets. Small wispy clouds hold a little water. They are called cirrus clouds. Big black clouds hold a lot of water. They are called cumulus clouds. When the droplets of water in the clouds get really big, they break free and fall to the ground. They are raindrops. This pond is filled with water from the rain.

When it is very cold, the water falls to the ground as snow and sleet.

When it is very cold, the water in the ponds and puddles will freeze. It turns to ice. The water is solid so you can skate on it. Have fun!
A Good Day for Kites

“The leaves are red and yellow,” said Ryan. “But it feels more like summer than fall.”

“Check the thermometer to see what the temperature is,” Mya said. It’s 80 degree Fahrenheit! That is warm for October,” said Ryan.

“It is windy, Ryan. Look at the wind sock. The wind is pushing it out. Today would be a good day to fly our kites,” Mya said.

“Let’s go get them.” said Ryan.

“Ready, set, go!” Ryan yelled. “Our kites look like wind socks in the sky!”

“Our kites are going the same way as the wind,” said Mya.

“They look like the real wind sock!”

“What a good day for kites!” said Ryan. “The temperature is warm. It is windy and our kites are flying high!”
“What is a desert?” asked Miss Cozy.

“The desert is hot,” said Joe.

“The desert has lots of sand,” said Tony.

“You are both right,” said Miss Cozy. “The desert can be hot and the desert can have lots of sand.”

“Some deserts are cold and rocky. Some deserts even have mountains. But all deserts are dry,” said Miss Cozy.

“Most deserts have less than 10 inches of rain a year.”

“Do deserts have plants?” asked Joe.

“The desert has plants,” said Miss Cozy. “Desert plants are good at storing water. A big cactus holds lots of water.”

“Do deserts have animals?” asked Tony.

“There are lots of animals that live in the desert. Some live near water holes. Many desert rodents get their water from the seeds or stems they eat. Camels can go week without drinking water. They get their water from green plants too,” said Miss Cozy.

“It must be hard to live in the desert,” said Joe.

“Not really,” said Miss Cozy. “The plants and animals that make the desert their home do just fine!”
Snow Is Good!

Joan put on her winter coat and ran outside. “The snow is growing deep,” she said. “When will it stop?”

“Snow is like rain falling from clouds,” said Mom. “Only snowflakes are frozen drops of water. The snow will stop when the air is dry and the clouds are not so full of water.”

“It is cold,” said Joan. “Let’s make a snowman before we freeze!”

“Wet snow is good for making snowmen,” said Mom. “Dry fluffy snow is good for taking a walk or going for a sled ride. Whee!”

“What about all the plants and animals?” asked Joan. “I am afraid they will freeze. When we are cold, we go inside to get warm.”

“Snow is good for animals,” said Mom. “It is like a blanket. Groundhogs and moles sleep under the ground all winter. A snow blanket keeps the wind and cold from them. Squirrels have heavy fur coats. Snow in the trees helps to keep the wind and cold from their nests.”

“Snow is good for plants too,” stated Mom. “A snow blanket keeps the wind and cold away from plants.”
Hurricanes

A hurricane is a violent storm. It has swirling winds and heavy rain. Hurricanes begin in the ocean. Most hurricanes happen in the late summer or fall. That is when the ocean water is very warm.

Hurricanes are very big. During a hurricane, fast winds begin to blow in a huge circle over the ocean. A hurricane’s winds may blow 200 miles an hour! Some hurricanes have winds that are even faster.

The middle of the hurricane is called the “eye” of the hurricane. The swirling winds do not go into the eye. They are pushed out. It is very quiet in the “eye” of the hurricane. Almost no wind blows there.

If a hurricane moves over land, fierce winds and heavy rain come with it. There might be a tornado too. Trees bend or fall. Windows might crack or shatter. Thunder roars. Lightning flashes. Floods can cover the land.

Hurricanes can be scary. Today we know when a hurricane will happen. We know when to leave our homes and when to come back. The hurricane might leave a mess, but we will be safe.
# First Grade Fluency Practice

**First Reader - Weather Unit**

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