

WEATHER WATCHING

The weather can be unpredictable and change quickly, which can affect your outdoor plans. Always check the weather forecast before you set off, so you can plan for the day properly. It can also be helpful to learn how to read signs of changing weather, so you don't get caught by surprise!

Keep an eye on the wind, as it is often the first sign of a change in weather. If it starts to get windy, it may be shortly followed by rain.

Weather apps are a great way of keeping an eye on the weather. You can even set alerts so that you know if a big weather change is on its way.

DID YOU KNOW?
Pine cones open their scales to scatter their seeds in dry weather. If a pine cone is tightly closed, that's a good sign that it's going to rain soon.

Low-flying birds can be a sign of rain. When it's about to rain, the air pressure drops and insects no longer get carried high up into the air. As many birds feed on insects, they fly lower too. There's an old saying that goes, "Hawks flying high means a clear sky. When they fly low, prepare for a blow."

Different climates pose different challenges. Northern areas are often colder, while deserts are often very hot, with very little water. Know the local climate so you can plan properly.

BE ALL EARS!

"The calm before the storm" is more than just a saying. Often birds and insects stop singing or making sounds when bad weather is coming. This spooky silence tells you that the weather is about to change.

CLOUDS ARE OFTEN A SIGN THAT RAIN IS ON THE WAY—BUT NOT ALWAYS!

Gathering wispy cirrus clouds
The weather is about to take a turn for the worse.

Fluffy cumulus clouds
Good weather.

Thick, gray altostratus clouds
Overcast skies and drizzle.

Towering cumulonimbus clouds
A storm is coming.

Low, dark gray nimbostratus clouds
Rain or snow.