



THE ROLE OF METEOROLOGY IN D-DAY

Context

- **History** The role of meteorology in the planning of D-Day
- **Literacy** Write a diary as a historical character
- **Science** Predicting and measuring the weather
- **Geography** The impact of weather

Objectives

- Learn about the importance of the role of meteorology in the planning of D-Day;
- Exploration of the scientific methods and equipment used to predict and measure the weather;
- Introduction of meteorology and the geographical ranges of weather forces involved in determining and assessing the weather;
- To understand and present factual information;
- To write a diary as a historical character using period vocabulary and information and ideas developed from research.

I. AN INTRODUCTION TO METEOROLOGY

Objective: To understand the work and importance of meteorology in our lives today

Introduction

- What is meteorology?
- Look up a local weather forecast e.g. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather>
- Investigate the weather predictions in your area over the next week.
- What is a low and a high tide?

ACTIVITY

- I. What is the purpose of a weather forecast? Make a list of:
 - All the types of weather which impact our lives and how. E.g. hurricanes, floods, excessive heat, gales, storms
 - All the people or/and the types of jobs where knowing what the weather is, can really make a difference. E.g. work involving the sea: fishing, travel





2. Discuss simple ways we can all predict the weather e.g. looking at the direction and/or strength of the wind, observing the clouds.
3. Instruments
Today, meteorologists use a range of scientific methods and resources to predict the weather including thermometers to measure temperature, barometers to measure wind and air pressure, balloons to measure humidity, pressure, and wind speeds and more complex technological methods such as satellites and radars. You explore these [HERE](http://www.weatherwizkids.com/?page_id=82)
http://www.weatherwizkids.com/?page_id=82

Extension

The Royal Meteorological Society have a range of KS2 lesson plans to try out in school and learn more about how to tell the weather. <http://www.metlink.org/observations-and-data/top-10-ideas-weather-fieldwork/>

2. D-DAY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF METEOROLOGY IN PLANNING

Objectives: To understand the importance of determining the weather in the preparations for D-Day.

ACTIVITIES

1. Read the supporting information introducing Meteorology and its importance in Operation Neptune.
2. Discuss either in groups or in class, the importance of choosing the right weather, to ensure students understand what was at stake and the impact.
3. Write a short poem describing the scene for the ideal weather conditions for the attack:
 - Moonlit night
 - Low tide at dawn
 - Good visibility
 - Light winds
 - Some low cloud





3. DR JAMES STAGG

Objectives: To explore the dilemma of being responsible for making important decisions in times of national importance

Prior Learning

Students need to be familiar with the background information to the importance of Meteorology in the D-Day Preparations and the decisions facing Dr Stagg.

ACTIVITIES

Imagine you are James Stagg. Write a diary entry dated 3 June outlining the decisions you are responsible for in deciding which day the Allies should attack. Think about the importance of your recommendation and how you need to persuade all the Allies that you are correct.

Think about:

- Your state of mind - are you calm and confident or worried and unsure?
- Your powers of persuasion – do you need to plan what you are going to say and show the evidence for your decision, or are you just asking everyone to trust you because you know best?
- All of these plans are secret so you cannot confide in anyone close to you, least of all your wife who is expecting a baby. How might this make you feel?
- Why might you be writing a diary – to express the emotions and fears you can't share or to keep an accurate record of events? Or a combination of both of these?

Plenary

Ask students to read a selection of these aloud. Think about the drama of presenting their writing – how do they conjure up the dilemma and uncertainty in their sharing?

