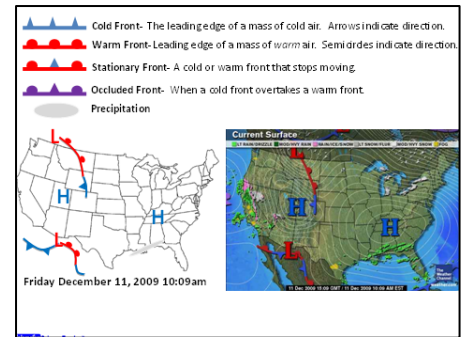


# Weather Forecasting

Getting ready to teach weather? This lesson will introduce students to meteorologists, and get them interpreting weather maps.

**Materials-** 2 copies of U.S. map, red and blue colored pencil



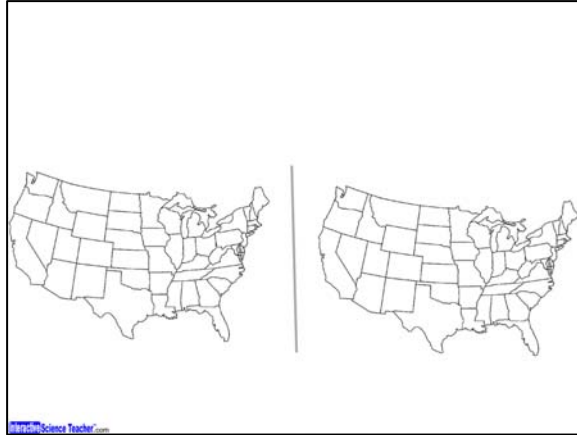
1. To prepare for this lesson, visit [weather.com](http://weather.com) . Copy the weather map you see on the site (right-click Copy) and paste into a PowerPoint. Do this each morning for a few consecutive days (a week is better!). Shown to the right are 3 consecutive days in early December, 2009. For copyright reasons I could not include any in the PowerPoint. Sorry!

What you're trying to show students is how weather moves- the speed, where storms come from, how fronts move and change.



2. Students will need this handout- it has 2 U.S. maps side by side on it. Leave a little room at the top for some work space.

This is available as a student handout (see last page).



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3. At the beginning of the lesson have students open their textbook to the weather section.

Review key terms, especially “fronts” and “meteorologist.”

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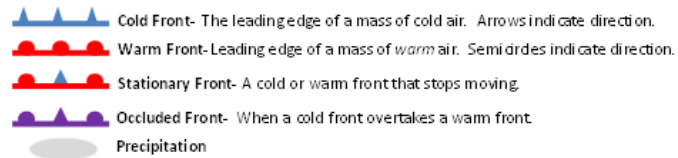
4. If you can, play video of local meteorologist giving the morning forecast- go to your local tv’s website and find it there.

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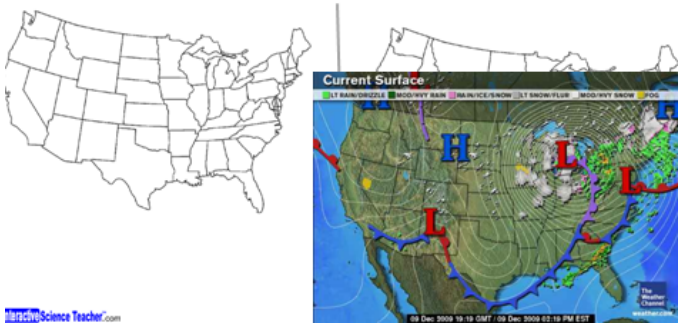
5. Now show the weather maps you put on the PowerPoint slides (back in step 1). Hopefully you’ve had some interesting weather and there are some fronts to watch.

Note the High and Low Pressure air masses as they move, as well as the precip. and frontal boundaries.

6. Go through the types of fronts, and have students put these (with colored pencil) at the top of their paper.

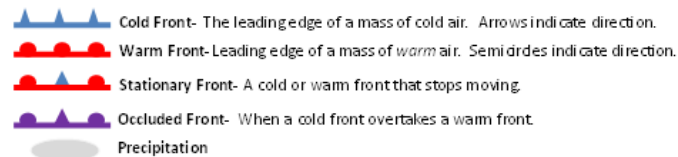


It would help students if you put a copy of a current weather map up so students can see these actual frontal symbols “in action” as they’re recording the symbol for each.

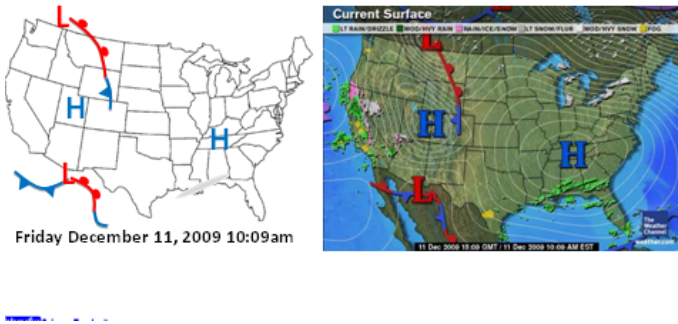


This is also available as a PowerPoint (see last page).

7. Students will now put the frontal boundaries from the current map onto their U.S. map.

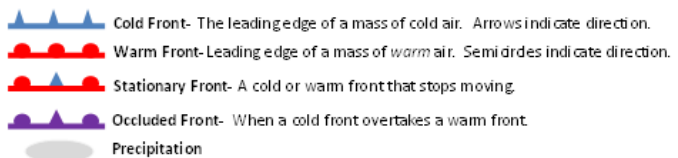


The easiest way to start is to put the big red L’s (low pressure) then blue H’s (high) on first, then add frontal symbols. The US map on the left shows what they’ll put on their paper.



Make sure students put the date and time of that weather map below their map.

8. Their homework is to predict what the weather will be like in the U.S. at this time tomorrow.



Go back through the series of daily weather maps to remind them about how much the weather changes from day to day.





Have students put tomorrow’s date and time below map #2 and get started.


Come back and visit [InteractiveScienceTeacher.com](http://InteractiveScienceTeacher.com) to upgrade this lesson with:


## PowerPoint- lead your students through the lesson click-by-click

 **Cold Front-** The leading edge of a mass of cold air. Arrows indicate direction.


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 **Cold Front-** The leading edge of a mass of cold air. Arrows indicate direction.


 **Warm Front-** Leading edge of a mass of warm air. Semi-circles indicate direction.

 **Warm Front-** Leading edge of a mass of warm air. Semi-circles indicate direction.

 **Stationary Front-** A cold or warm front that stops moving.

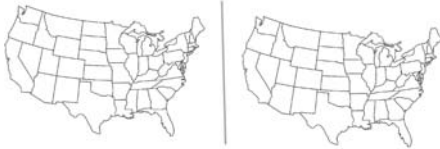
 **Stationary Front-** A cold or warm front that stops moving.

 **Occluded Front-** When a cold front overtakes a warm front.

 **Occluded Front-** When a cold front overtakes a warm front.

 **Precipitation**

 **Precipitation**

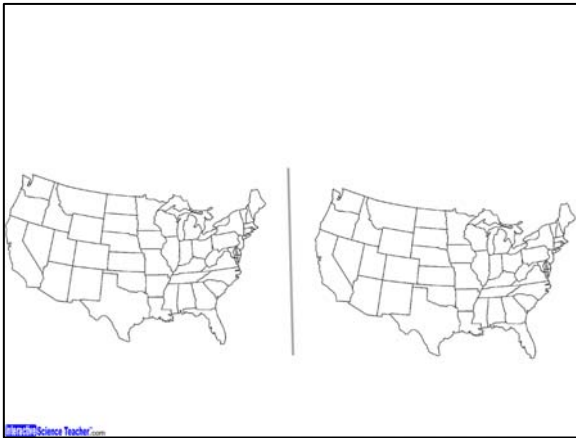


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## Student Handout



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