

ELF NOTES

Environmental Learning for the Future - Vermont Institute of Natural Science
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ANIMAL FORECASTERS

Weather forecasters don't rely on animals when it comes to predicting the weather. But amateur weather-watchers like farmers and gardeners and people living in remote places claim that animals can provide some clues, especially for short-term predictions. They say there is some truth to such signs as general restlessness and frenzied feeding in some animals. Do you know any weather sayings that comment on the behavior of animals, like "Flies will swarm before a storm"? See if you can learn more of these sayings. Which do you think might be true? Why? Have you noticed what your pets are doing when the clouds get dark, the wind picks up and a change in weather is imminent? Can you feel rain coming before it arrives? What signs tell YOU that the weather is changing?

EARTH AND SKY WIND and CLOUDS

Winds carrying moisture-laden clouds bring weather, both fair and inclement, to all parts of the planet.

All winds are created when warm air rises and expands while cooler, denser air flows in to replace it. Winds pick up moisture as they blow over the earth. This moisture collects in the air and forms clouds.

Wind affects the shape of clouds by evaporating them in some places and adding moisture to them in others.

Wind direction and the types of cloud formations give clues about the weather, making it possible to predict changes in weather.

ELF NEWS FROM SCHOOL