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Camp Weather - A Thematic Unit for Fifth Grade

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CAMP WEATHER--A THEMATIC UNIT FOR FIFTH GRADE

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When we began this endeavor, we were very eager to put together a creation we would all be able to use in our future classrooms. We browsed the Internet for ideas and searched through many books in the IPFW School of Education Curriculum Lab. It took much time and effort to put together but eventually everything fell into place. A major obstacle was that many weather concepts are difficult to translate into meaningful lessons which are developmentally appropriate for fifth grade students. We also found there were so many weather resources to choose from that we had a difficult time narrowing it down to a specific set of lessons. We chose very creative activities that address air pressure, clouds, tornadoes, and barometric pressure. Each topic was pulled apart and reformed to incorporate science, mathematics, social studies, language arts, physical education, art, and music. To accompany this unit our group created a web site which is now featured on the Curriculum Lab's Internet home page. Our web page features links to The Weather Channel's web site, as well as web sites for the National Hurricane Center, the National Severe Storm Laboratory and the Tornado Project Online. This was an extremely fascinating experience for all of us and we expect to use the skills we have learned in our future classrooms. We spent a great deal of time preparing this thematic unit and accompanying web page and we are extremely satisfied with this product. We endured many obstacles along the way which forced us to really pull together as a team and believe each of us has come to a better understanding of teamwork, the nature of collaboration, and the process of creating interdisciplinary thematic units.