

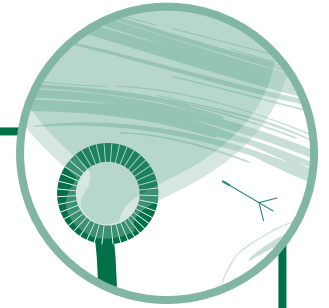
Windy ways

★ What do I do?

1. Read the ACTIVITY CARD to familiarise yourself with the activity.
2. Check the Resources list – see overleaf.
3. Set the scene by discussing the weather and how it is measured and get the children to think about their own experiences of things blowing in the wind (balloons, dandelion seeds etc).
4. Give each group access to bubble solution. Let them practice blowing bubbles (preferably outside) then hand out the rest of the resources. Remind them about Safety.
5. Encourage each group to discuss how they might use the resources to carry out their investigations.



6. Check that they have thought about what they are trying to measure (wind direction and the speed that the bubbles travel).
7. Go outside to carry out the investigation. Make sure groups are not too close together.
8. Give the children time to discuss and share the outcomes of their investigations.
9. They could record their findings by making a chart or presentation.
10. There are extra challenges on the ACTIVITY CARD. These can be used if there is any spare time or if children want to try out more ideas at home and earn a bonus sticker.



★ Handy hints

Resources

- ★ Bubble blowers and solution
- ★ Pens or pencils
- ★ Paper
- ★ Compasses
- ★ Timers
- ★ Measuring tapes or sticks

Safety

- ★ Ensure children do not swallow the bubble solution or get it in their eyes.
- ★ Children can become excited when blowing bubbles. It should be safe for them to chase the bubbles in an open area if they are well spread out, but remind them about behaving sensibly to avoid bumps and falls.

Background information

- ★ As part of a national survey, OPAL is using a variety of methods to investigate climate and how it affects the weather. Bubbles provide an interesting and engaging way for children to investigate wind speed and direction. They can make simple measurements of the time it takes for bubbles to travel a set distance to get wind speed, and can plot the movement of bubbles to get the wind direction.
- ★ For more information see www.opalexplornature.org/crest and www.britishsociety.org/creststar

How they can share their ideas

- ★ Children can draw a labelled picture depicting the movement of their bubbles.
- ★ They can create a chart showing their findings.
- ★ They can make a guide for someone who wants to find out more about the wind.

Things to look out for

- ★ Make sure that the bubble solution is a good strength so that bubbles are easy to blow. Try it before the children use it.
- ★ The children are likely to be excited at first and chase bubbles. This is normal. Once they have done this they should be ready to focus on solving the problem. They can do this without running around frantically.
- ★ Encourage children not to use too many bubbles at once. A few at a time are generally easier to investigate.
- ★ Avoid very windy days. The bubbles will move too quickly and erratically. A gentle breeze is best.

