

Lesson Plan: The Wind and Its Origins

Area: Physical Science

Age Group: 2nd-3rd Grade

Supplies Needed:

- lamp (without lampshade)
- talcum powder
- pencil
- piece of paper
- scissors

Introduction:

- Ask students what they think the wind is
- Ask students to brainstorm what the wind could be, what it means to them:
 - Every time I feel the wind, _____.

Demonstration:

Part 1:

- Turn on the lamp, and let it heat up a bit.
- Sprinkle some talcum powder just above the bulb.

Part 2:

- Cut a spiral out of the piece of paper
- Carefully balance the spiral on the point of a pencil. Don't make a hole in the spiral.
- Hold the pencil with the spiral just above heated lamp.

Directions:

- Ask students to closely watch what happens to the talcum powder and what happens to the spiral
- Have students discuss what they saw and why it happened
- The powder rises into the air because it is heated from the lamp
- The spiral will slowly spin because of the heated air from the lamp
- Discuss what wind actually is and what causes wind: movement of hot and cold air
- Discuss how hot air rises and cold air sinks

Follow-up:

- Talk about hurricanes and tornadoes and how they come about: extreme cases of wind
- Show animations of how hurricanes and tornadoes form:
<http://www.brainpop.com/science/weatherandclimate/wind/>

Source: <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/earthspace11.html>