

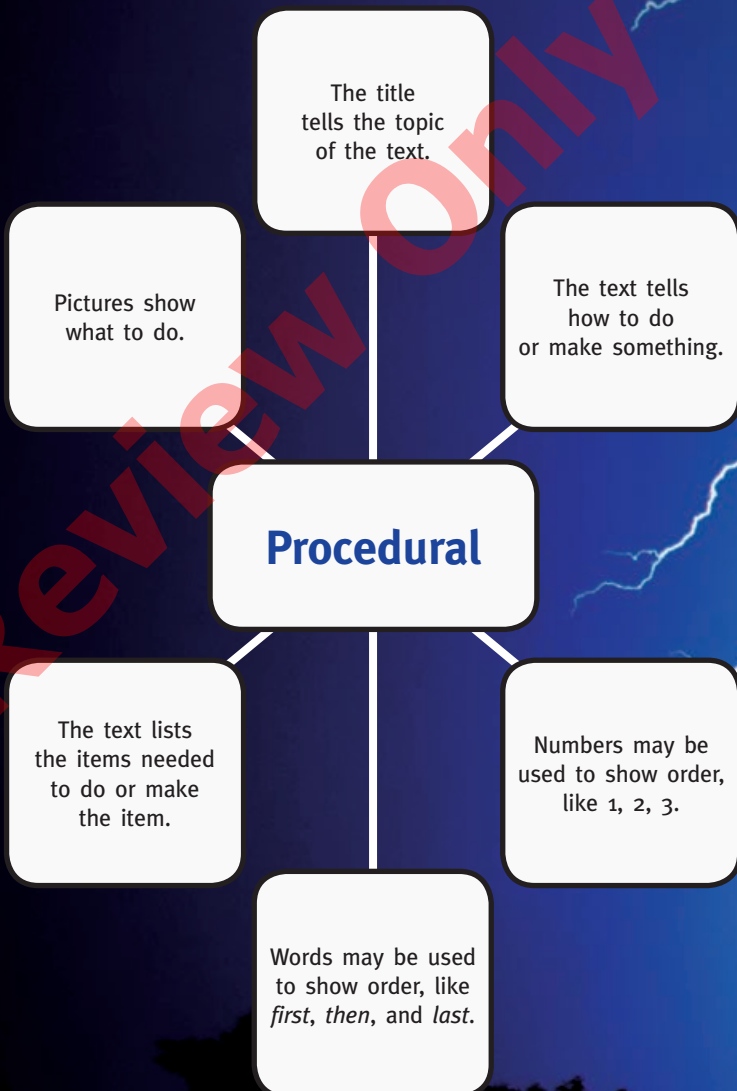
Forecasting the Weather

Level **L/24**

Lexile® **580L**

Procedural Text

Look for the genre features noted below as you read this book. Use the features to help you understand the text.



© Benchmark Education Company, LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. © Printed in Guangzhou, China. XXXX-XX-XXXX

LEXILE® is a trademark of MetaMetrics, Inc., and is registered in the United States and abroad.

E-books and additional digital resources available at benchmarkuniverse.com.

ISBN: 978-1-5322-5217-4

Toll-Free 1-877-236-2465

www.benchmarkeducation.com

www.benchmarkuniverse.com

BENCHMARK EDUCATION COMPANY
145 Huguenot Street • New Rochelle, NY • 10801

What's the Weather Today?

Every day, people ask: “What will the weather be like today?” If they know, they can plan their day. If people know it's going to rain, they'll wear a raincoat. If they know snow is coming, they'll wear boots and make time to shovel. If it's going to be sunny and hot, they may wear shorts.

▼ An umbrella and boots come in handy on a rainy day.





▲ **Meteorologists use computers to study the weather.**

Some scientists **forecast**, or predict, the weather. They are called **meteorologists**. Many of these scientists work in weather stations around the world. Weather stations have tools to help the scientists measure and study different weather conditions.



▲ **Planes cannot take off in severe storms such as blizzards.**

Some meteorologists forecast the weather for airlines. It is important to know that it is safe for planes to take off and land. Others forecast the weather so that boats will be safe at sea.

▼ **Boats depend on accurate forecasts for sea travel.**



Some meteorologists work for news stations. They warn people if a strong storm, like a hurricane, is coming. Others forecast the local weather for cities and towns. The forecast helps people to prepare for sun, rain, snow, or wind in their area.

▼ The weather forecast helps people plan ahead.



WEEKEND FORECAST

FRI



PARTLY
CLOUDY

66°

SAT



FEW
SHOWERS

60°

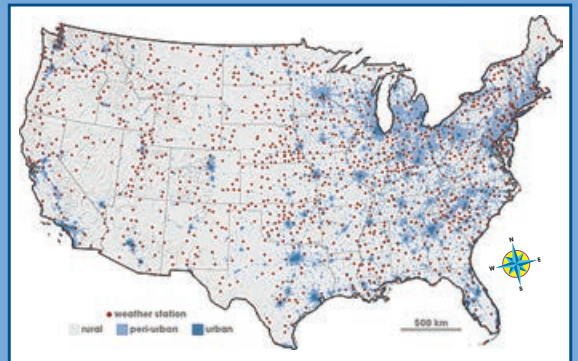
SUN



SUNNY

Visiting a Weather Station

Every U.S. state has weather stations. The stations have instruments, or tools, that measure weather conditions. Scientists use this information to forecast the weather.



Measuring the Weather

A weather station has many tools. One tool measures **air temperature**. It tells how warm or cool the air is. One tool measures the **air pressure**. It tells how much the air is pushing down on Earth. High pressure can mean cool, dry weather. Low pressure can mean rain. Another tool collects rain in a tube. This tool measures the amount of rainfall.



thermometer

◀ This tool measures
air temperature.



barometer

This tool
measures
rainfall. ▶

◀ This tool
measures air
pressure.



rain gauge

One tool measures the wind speed. This tool has four cups that spin on a pole. The cups catch the wind and turn a dial. The dial shows the wind speed.

All these measurements help scientists predict weather.

▼ This tool measures how fast the wind is moving.



Outside the weather station stands a tower with a huge white ball on top. Inside it is a **radar** antenna. The antenna sends out radio waves. The waves bounce off rain or snow in the air and return to the radar. This helps scientists map and track storms.

▼ The radar antenna sends out radio waves to detect storms.

