



The Royal Meteorological Society

Welcome to MetLinkInternational

The Royal Meteorological Society's flagship project for schools and individuals

INTRODUCTION

The essence of this internet-based project is that participants make and exchange weather observations once a day for two or three weeks by means of an on-line database and, with the help and guidance of meteorological professionals, analyse and interpret the observations. **The project is for primary and secondary schools (age range 7-19) and for individuals of any age.** It supports Geography, Science, and/or ICT.

A feature of the project is that weather reports are provided daily on weekdays (Monday to Friday, inclusive) and reference is made in them to weather observations made at MetLink schools. Reference is also made to weather charts, satellite images and weather web-cams.

The language of the project is English, which provides an opportunity for students whose first language is not English to enhance their study of the language.

In **2004**, the project will run twice, from **26 January to 6 February** and from **15 to 19 March** (the latter being the **UK's National Science Week**). You can take part in either or both of these two periods, and there is no charge for participation in the project.

The web address of the project's home page is <http://www.metlink.org>. To register, click, on the left-hand side of the home page, on "Register online" and complete the form headed "Register for the MetLinkInternational project". Please note on this form that "Listing title" means your school's name.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The intention of *MetLinkInternational* is that participants will:

- use the internet to enhance weather studies;
- record weather data daily over a period of two or three weeks;
- use the internet to exchange the data with others;
- develop weather projects, plot graphs and compare results with others;
- encourage other participants to write articles about weather events.

In general terms, the aims are that the project will:

- arouse and sustain interest in meteorology as a field of study;
- help develop the basic observing and instrument skills of participants;
- provide an interesting learning vehicle for the development of basic skills in ICT (Information and Communication Technology).

The objectives are that participants will become able to:

- observe and record weather systematically;
- present weather data by appropriate statistical means;
- account for differences of weather from place to place in terms of latitude, distance from the sea, altitude and other factors;
- account for weather phenomena in terms of the processes involved.

More specifically, the meteorological aims of the project are to:

- improve individuals' abilities to collect and record weather data;
- appreciate weather differences from region to region;
- understand the reasons for the differences.

The non-meteorological aims are to enhance and improve:

- email, web-handling and other ICT skills;
- information-handling and data-handling in general;
- use of instruments;
- writing and reporting skills.

The long-term benefits of *MetLinkInternational* are seen as:

- a wider interest in the teaching of meteorological topics at both primary and secondary levels;
- a greater awareness of, and enthusiasm for, meteorology as a science-based subject;
- the recognition of meteorology as one of the few fields of study that can embrace the full scope of experimental method, scientific analysis and interactive ICT skills in an engaging way;
- the acquisition of a meteorological information and data resource which will be of value long after the project has ended.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO TAKE PART IN THE PROJECT?

***MetLinkInternational* is for people of all ages, worldwide. However simple their weather instruments, schools and individuals can take part in this project.**

Participants

- use the internet to enhance weather studies;
- record weather data;
- enter daily readings into the *MetLink* weather database;
- link with other participants and exchange weather news;
- exchange information and ideas using the *MetLink* eGroup;
- develop weather projects, plot graphs and compare results;
- write and publish articles about weather events;
- make use of on-line weather worksheets.

Recommended weather-recording equipment

- maximum and minimum thermometer (degrees Celsius);
- rain gauge;
- cloud chart (major cloud types).

Optional weather-recording equipment

- barometer;
- ventimeter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Malcolm Walker, Education Officer of the Royal Meteorological Society:

✉ education@royalmetsoc.org

✉ Royal Meteorological Society, 104 Oxford Road, Reading, RG1 7LL, UK

☎ +44(0)118 956 8500

Fax +44(0)118 956 8571