

PRE LAB

Reading A Weather Map

Reviewing Content

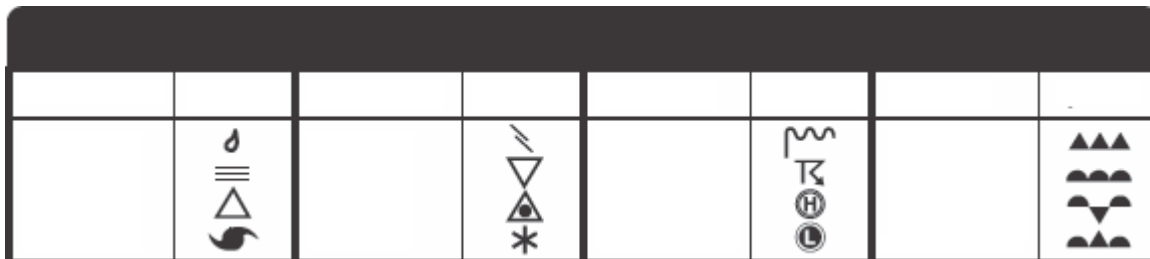
A weather map contains information about the weather conditions over a wide area at a specific time. It is basically a “snapshot” of conditions in the atmosphere. Meteorologists use weather maps to see the weather “now,” but they also use weather maps to forecast the weather in the coming hours or days.

There are many kinds of weather maps. The National Weather Service (NWS) creates weather maps, using data from weather stations all over the country as well as from remote technology such as satellites.

Common data on weather maps includes temperature, cloud cover, wind speed and direction, precipitation, low and high pressure systems, storm systems, and fronts. The NWS has developed symbols that stand for each type of weather condition. If you know the symbols, you can easily read a weather map.

Most of the weather maps you encounter are not NWS maps. Newspapers and daily television forecasts use their own weather maps. They are much less complicated than the NWS variety and may use different symbols.

Weather	Symbol	Weather	Symbol	Weather	Symbol	Weather	Symbol
Drizzle		Rain		Smoke		Cold front*	
Fog		Shower		Thunderstorm		Warm front*	
Hail		Sleet		High pressure		Stationary front*	
Hurricane		Snow		Low pressure		Occluded front*	



* Triangles or half-circles on a front symbol point in the direction a front is moving

Reviewing Inquiry Focus

When you interpret data, you don’t just report it. You analyze the data and draw conclusions from it. You ask questions such as, “What does it mean?” When interpreting data on a map, the data is in the form of map symbols. You must first determine what each symbol means. Then

you must look for patterns, draw conclusions, and make predictions based on the data you see.

1 Where will you find the data in this Lab Investigation?

2 In what form will you find the data?

PREDICTING THE WEATHER

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