

# Precipitation Map

SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY

**P**recipitation is any form of moisture that falls out of clouds—snow, rain, hail, sleet, freezing rain, etc. Various symbols are used to represent the different kinds of precipitation on weather maps. In this activity, students will use a weather map to answer questions about precipitation falling across the country.

## Directions

Photocopy and hand out a copy of page 50 to each student. Review the key with students, checking for understanding of the symbols. Ask students to follow the instructions to complete their worksheets.

Answers: 1. Washington and Oregon 2. Texas and Louisiana 3. Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri 4. Colorado, Wyoming, and Maine 5. Florida 6. Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina 7. probably winter because of the sleet and snow

## Extensions

**Precipitation Poems (Language Arts)** The different kinds of precipitation—hail, snow, sleet, drizzle, etc.—make great poem themes. Have students choose a kind of precipitation and write a poem about its shape, feel, effects, etc. Invite students to illustrate their poems with rainy or snowy scenes. (If you wish, combine it with the Rainy-Day Pictures activity on page 44. Students can write poems to describe the pictures they’ve made.)

**TV Weather Report (Language Arts)** Challenge students to write a “current precipitation” paragraph summarizing the information on the weather map. Consider making a fun “TV” by cutting a window out of a large cardboard box and decorating it like a TV. Then students can take turns reporting the country’s precipitation “on TV” as they hold the box over their heads.

## Book Break

Read the stunningly illustrated book *Rain Player* by David Wisniewski (Clarion Books, 1991) to your class. It’s the Mayan story of a brave boy who challenges Chac, the god of rain, to a game of pok-a-tok to win his people relief from drought. A number of Mayan words, such as pok-a-tok, are used in the story and are defined on the author’s note page. Challenge students to define the words using context clues as you read the story and then see how close they were once the story is finished.

## Materials

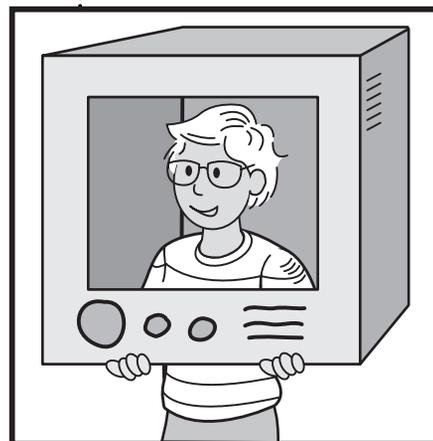
(for each student)

reproducible page 50



[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

On the Weather Channel’s website, it’s easy to find out if it will be sunny or rainy in any part of the country. Next to the computer, keep a can or folder filled with weather challenges such as, “I’m going to Dallas on Friday. Do I need an umbrella?” written on slips of paper. Label the folder or can with the website’s address. Students can go online, type in the city name, and answer the questions.

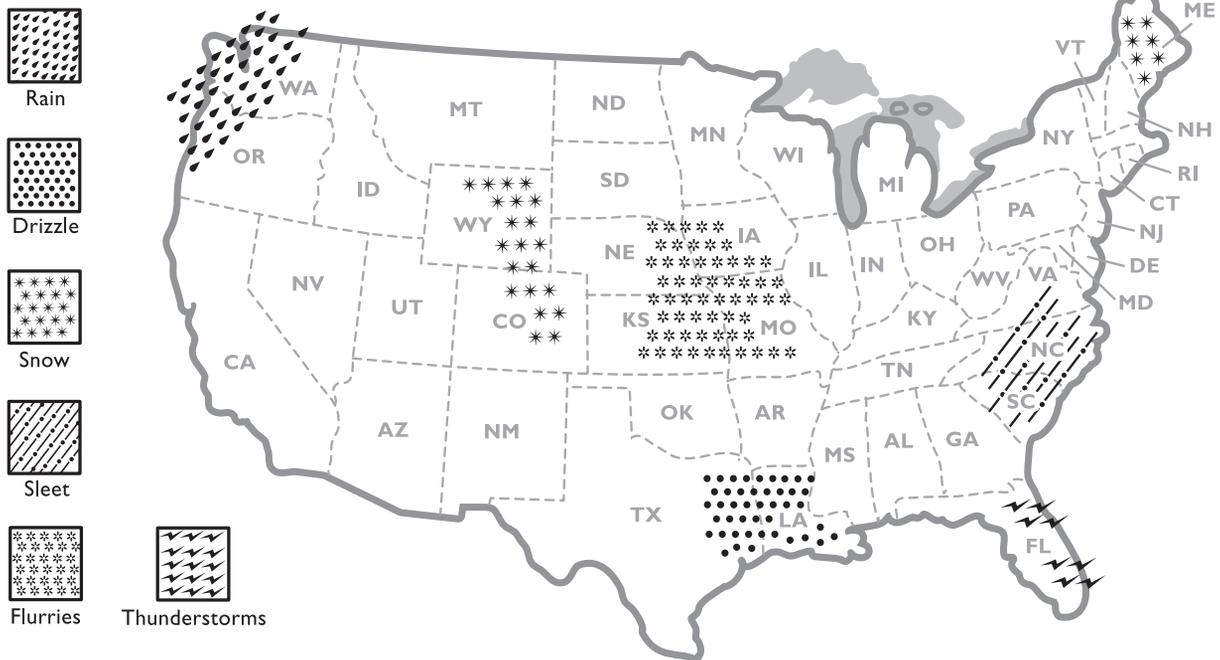


Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Precipitation Map

Precipitation can be rain, snow, sleet, flurries, freezing rain, or hail. Weather maps use different symbols to tell you what's falling where. Look at the key below.

It shows you the symbols. Use them to read the map and answer the questions.



## Questions:

1. In what states is it raining? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what states is it drizzling? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What states are getting flurries? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What states are getting snow? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where are there thunderstorms? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In what states is sleet coming down? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What season do you think the map shows? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Does the map show any precipitation where you live? \_\_\_\_\_