

What does the wind do?

The air in our atmosphere is never still; it's always being pushed around by more air. It's not just a *little* air, but large chunks of air we call **air masses**. Air masses look like bumper cars at a fair. One moment, they're floating around quietly. The next moment, they bump into other air masses. You can't see those masses, but they're always

around you. The wind steers them slowly around the earth. That's how they spread the warmth of the sun.

The wind varies in its strength and effects. Sometimes it's gentle, and other times it's strong. The speed of wind is called **wind force**.

Did you know
you can sometimes
hear the wind?

At wind force . . .

0 It's quiet;
there's little movement.

3 Do you see the leaves
and branches moving?

4 Sand and paper
whirl to the ground.

2 You can feel the wind
on your face.

1 Your pinwheel is still.

5 Small trees move, and you
see waves on the water.

7 Walking against
the wind is difficult.

6 Hold on to your hat!
And don't open an
umbrella!

9 This storm is heavy!
It's difficult to stand.
You better stay inside!

8 A storm has arrived.
Branches fall from the trees.





What does the water do?

The clouds predict the weather. They're actually teeny-tiny drops of water carried by the wind. That's how water moves throughout the earth. Rain can fall everywhere.

When you see clouds floating in the sky, you might imagine traveling through them in a hot-air balloon or a parachute. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to walk in the clouds? Actually, you already know. Because you've probably already done it before: **fog** is a big cloud hanging just above the ground.

It's snowing!

Little white flakes fall from the sky.



Did you know that ice is frozen water? A raindrop can also change into snow or hail if it's very cold.

Did you know frost can make flowers on windows? We call those frost flowers.



Look!

These clouds are like feathers. They might bring thunderstorms with rain.

Careful!

These big, purplish-brown clouds carry thunder, lightning, rain, and wind.



Did you know your breath can turn into a cloud on a cold day?