Inquiry lesson

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File name: K.3 Weather conditions vary daily and seasonally.

Conceptual idea: Wind is moving air. Sometimes air moves fast and sometimes it hardly moves at all. Wind speed can be estimated by observing the things that it moves, such as flags, tree branches or sailboats.

Phase 1 - Inquiry Starters

Essential Questions:
1. By observing objects how can we estimate wind speed?

Initial set up
Small groups:

Each group is given potted plant and a three speed fan.

Facilitator asks students to observe movement of the plant with and without wind, (fan on low speed).

Prior to start of investigation students will be told that following experiment, we will discuss what they noticed and what do they wonder.

After initial investigation, students come together as a whole group and facilitator writes all ideas that students noticed and what do they wonder.
Focused Investigation

Facilitator selects the questions that are investigable and will address content goal.

Facilitator assigns investigable questions to assigned small groups.

Each group is provided a three speed fan.

Facilitator discusses the materials that can be used for investigation, including changing fan speed.

Materials include: Block, feather, flag on stand, pinwheel, car, tub of water with boat, potted plant......

Children conduct experiment while facilitator observes group work and redirects or asks guiding questions to assist students in reaching content goal.

Sharing Understanding

Students will come back as a whole group and discusses findings. Facilitator will summarize student findings by creating a table, graph or chart.

Students will be asked to show findings by role playing objects at different speeds.

Facilitator continues student learning by asking students what are other objects in real world you could observe to estimate wind speed.

Facilitator concludes lesson by stating conceptual idea.
Summative assessment:
Each student is given a picture of an outdoor scene and are asked to circle any objects that would allow them to estimate wind speed. Then they are given two pictures of the same outdoor scene and must circle the scene that is a windier day.