

Exercise: 1

Instructions: Scientists use instruments to obtain information about what the weather is doing and what it might do in the near future. This exercise will give you an introduction to the various instruments that are used for obtaining weather information. Read through the 'Take a Tour' pages and be sure to click on the various instruments to get a close up picture of what each one does and how it works. Answer the following questions completely and accurately.

1. How did early forecasters obtain information on the weather?
2. What is an Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS)?
3. What is a dewpoint sensor? How does this device measure dewpoint?
4. What is a wind sensor used for? How does this device work?
5. What is a precipitation identification sensor used for?
6. How does a cloud height sensor measure the height of clouds?
7. How is visibility measured and how does the device used to measure visibility work?
8. How does a roof top rain gauge work? Why do they put windshields around them?