

# Infant Lesson Plan 4

# Dairy and the Environment

## Objective

To develop pupils' understanding of the relationship between weather, the environment and farming.

Duration: **30 minutes** (approximately).



## Curricular Links

### SPHE:

Myself and the wider world ⇨ Developing citizenship ⇨ Environmental care

### Geography:

Natural Environments ⇨ Weather

Environmental awareness and care ⇨ Caring for my locality



# Words of the Day

**Environment** – Everything living and non-living around you, including the air.

**Weather** – The weather tells us how hot or cold and how wet or dry it is in a place each day.

**Climate** – The climate tells us what the weather is like in a place over a long time.

**Drought** – A drought is when the weather is dry for a very long time and there is no rain or very little rain.

**Flood** – A flood is water that covers land which is normally dry.

## Class Discussion

- Ask pupils to discuss what they understand by the word 'weather'.
- Ask pupils to describe the weather yesterday and today. Compare.
- Explain the term 'weather' (see Words of the Day).
- Now ask pupils to discuss the weather they may have experienced in another country, for example, France or Spain.
- Explain the term 'climate', highlighting that while the weather in Ireland changes every day, that normally our climate is never too hot or too cold.



# Pair Discussion

- 1 Begin by asking pupils to think of any signs of unusual weather they have experienced locally, for example, a really hot summer in Ireland, lots of snow, very wet weather or really stormy weather. Discuss as a class.
- 2 Draw a sun, snow cloud, storm cloud and rain cloud on the board. Ask pupils, working in pairs, to look at each of the four images and to chat about how hot, snowy, stormy and wet weather can affect themselves, their families or people in their locality.
- 3 Inform pupils that extreme unusual weather is caused by changes in the climate. Highlight the importance of us all looking after our planet so that we don't have this unusual weather happening more often.

# Personal Activity

Ask pupils to recall what dairy is and explain the function of a dairy farm. Give each pupil a copy of the **'Dairy and the Environment'** activity sheet. Ask pupils to look at the four images which highlight how life on the dairy farm is affected by extreme unusual weather (climate change). Read out the following sentences and ask pupils to identify the correct image, numbering 1 to 5. Discuss as a class.

- 1 During snowy weather animals need to be kept inside.
- 2 In bad weather, roads can become dangerous. This can affect milk being collected from farms and being delivered to schools and homes.
- 3 In bad weather, like on stormy days, cows can't go outside on the grass, so farmers have to give them extra food.
- 4 When it is very dry and there is less rain, this affects the amount of grass for animals to eat.
- 5 Droughts and floods can destroy a farmer's crop.



## Extension Activities

- 1 Divide pupils into five groups, assigning each group one of the ways (opposite) in which the dairy farm can be affected by climate change and asking them to illustrate this.
- 2 Ask pupils to draw two pictures, one illustrating a dairy farm on a day with normal weather and the other illustrating a dairy farm on a day of extreme unusual weather.
- 3 Encourage pupils to bring their School Milk cartons or bottles home to recycle.

## Bring it Home

Encourage your pupils to take home the message of the impact climate change has on the environment. As a homework activity, you can ask your pupils to:

- 1 Record the weather for a week and draw a picture of how the weather affected their family activities. For example, did a wet day prevent the family doing an activity they would normally do?

