



## Does my yard have a temperature?

The climate is changing, winters may be warmer or colder than historically, summers hotter or dryer and storms stronger and more common.

Scientists know that about the changing climates because they have been recording Earth's temperature for hundreds of years as well as looking for clues about the climate in everything from tree rings and cores removed from deep within the Earth.

Students may want to take and record the temperature of their yards as winter changes to spring this year. Outdoor thermometers can be obtained locally in the garden section of hardware stores. Create a data sheet such as the one below for each day. Consistently is important when collecting any type of scientific data. Always collect the data at the same time and in the same location. Graph the data after a few days or weeks and share thoughts about changes with others.

Location:	Date:	Time:	Temperature:	Weather (rain, sun, clouds):
On the driveway				
Under the oak tree				
In the middle of the yard				
Inside the dog house				

While taking the temperature of your yard record any observations of wildlife or plants blooming. Observations will help give you additional insight about your yard. Some plants will only grow in the cool shade of a large tree. Wildlife such as lizards will enjoy the sunny areas to warm up before they go looking for insects.