Using the Magnetic Thermometer Boards and Thermometer

1. Put the 5 giant magnetic write-on/wipe-off thermometer charts side by side on the whiteboard. Review how to read a thermometer. Make sure students understand that each small line on the Celsius side represents 1° whereas on the Fahrenheit side each small line represents 2°.

2. Place the thermometer outside.

3. Send a couple of students with an adult outside to read the temperature on the thermometer. You can assign one student to read the Fahrenheit scale and another to read the Celsius scale.

4. When they return, ask one of the students to use a red write-on/wipe-off marker to color in the temperature on a large write-on/wipe-off thermometer chart. The other student can confirm (or correct) the temperature.

5. Fill in the day, date, and time at the top of the thermometer chart. Record the numerical temperature at the bottom.

6. At their desks, students should use a red crayon, colored pencil, or marker to fill in the same information on their own worksheets (see back of this guide). There is a place to record the numerical temperature at the bottom of the chart.

7. Discuss the day's temperature. Does it feel hot or cold? What kind of clothing is needed at this temperature? (possible answers: shorts, long sleeves, heavy coats, hat, etc.)

8. Repeat steps 1–7 for 5 days in a row. Be sure to do the activity at the same time each day. Keep the charts side by side on your board so students can compare the previous day's temperature.

9. Ask students to look at the colored thermometer charts. Ask, Which day had the warmest temperature? How can you tell? (tallest red line) Which day had the coolest temperature? How can you tell? (shortest red line) If the temperature over the week clearly shows an increasing or decreasing trend, ask students to tell you if the temperature increased or decreased over the week.

10. Save the students’ worksheets. Repeat the activity each month. Ask the students to compare several different months (e.g., October and January) and tell you what they notice about the temperature differences. Students will usually notice, for example, that it's colder in January than October. You can use this information as a springboard to compare/contrast seasons (e.g., fall and winter).

You can also use this kit to show students that the temperature changes throughout the day. Have students read and record the temperature in the morning, midday, and afternoon. Discuss how the temperature changed.

Contents:
• 5 giant magnetic write-on/wipe-off thermometer charts
• 1 real working thermometer
• teacher's guide with reproducible worksheet on the back

You will also need:
• 1 red write-on/wipe-off marker
• red crayons, colored pencils, or markers for students to use