

FirstWorks Virtual Learning Series: Heather Henson

Introduction to Heather Henson:

Heather Henson (daughter of legendary puppeteer Jim Henson), is a visionary puppet artist, director, and producer who creates transformative and educational experiences that honor Mother Earth and inspire people to nurture the planet. She is best known for performances that illustrate the harmonious relationship between humans, animals, and the environment.

Heather's storytelling is inspired by her sense of kinship with the endangered species of the world—particularly whooping cranes—the symbiotic relationship between indigenous people and the land, and how communities develop holistic food systems.



Heather received her undergraduate degree from Rhode Island School of Design and studied at the California Institute of the Arts. Over the past 25 years, an awe for nature's balance and messages of health and healing for the planet have been ingrained in her work. As the youngest child of legendary puppeteer Jim Henson, Heather gained an appreciation for nature through time spent with her father. Her memories of how he was able to weave his many passions—including nature—into his work have served as motivation throughout her own career.

The below video features excerpts from "Ajijaak on Turtle Island," a production by IBEX Puppetry and Heather Henson. FirstWorks brought the performance to Rhode Island in January 2019 as part of an "Earth First" artist residency. Excerpts from Henson's accompanying artist talk focus on the interconnectedness between humans and nature across millennia, and the symbolism of the beautifully crafted animal puppets depicted in the performance.

Watch Heather Henson's Artist Talk by clicking [HERE](#)

Kindergarten - Grade 6 Lesson: Bird Migration

Science Standards:

K-ESS2-1 Use and share observations of local weather conditions to describe patterns over time.

K-ESS3-2 Ask questions to obtain information about the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for, and respond to, severe weather.

1-LS1-2 Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive.

3-ESS2-1 Represent data in tables and graphical displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season.

MS-LS2-4 Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations.

MS-LS2-5 Evaluate competing design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.

MS-ETS1.1 Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions

MS-ETS1.3 Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.

Birds' Migration Activity

Here's an easy way to study a bird's migration route. Try this birds' migration activity to learn about a bird's pattern of flight.

What You'll Need: Reference book or internet access Globe or world map Rubber cement Different colored yarn, string

1. Migratory birds fly thousands of miles every year. If students have a book about migratory birds, ask them to use it. If not, have them search "migratory birds" on the internet.
2. Ask them to see if their home is on the migration path of any birds. (If it is, encourage them to watch for them at the times of the year when they migrate.)
3. Then, on a globe or world map, have them mark the migration paths of some birds. Using rubber cement or other temporary adhesive, they can attach a piece of yarn to each bird's starting place and attach the other end of the yarn to the bird's summer home. They can use different colors of yarn for different birds.
4. Have students create a large wall-sized calendar on a wall or board. Every morning, have them note the weather conditions and mark it on the calendar; also mark the date and time of each bird's migration. Have the students compare this information to the patterns of flight listed in the book. Ask students the following questions to generate a discussion:
 1. Do the patterns match what the book states for each bird? If not, why do you think it is different?
 2. What environmental factors may affect flight patterns?
 3. What weather conditions did your home experience that may affect flight patterns?
 4. Are there any man made factors affecting the patterns? Name some. Have the students record this information in a special section of their notebooks, being sure to have them draw a picture of each bird that migrates over their home. If helpful, please see the journal page templates provided.

BONUS! We have provided a crane puppet made of paper! Along with other animals the crane may come in contact with, you will see materials for her nest as she lays her eggs.

Follow the simple instructions:

1. Cut on the bold black line only.
2. Fold on the dotted line.
3. Once it is cut and folded in the proper places, you may find it helpful to tape certain sections, such as the hindquarters and each wing, together so the puppet has dimension.
 - a. Don't completely fold the beak so that it resembles a crane's bill.
 - b. Slightly curl the wings so that there is a bit of a curve.

And, you and your students will have a fun crane diorama! We have found that all ages enjoy this puppet, so, do encourage students to share this activity with their families, and, enjoy nature!

Name: _____ Date: _____

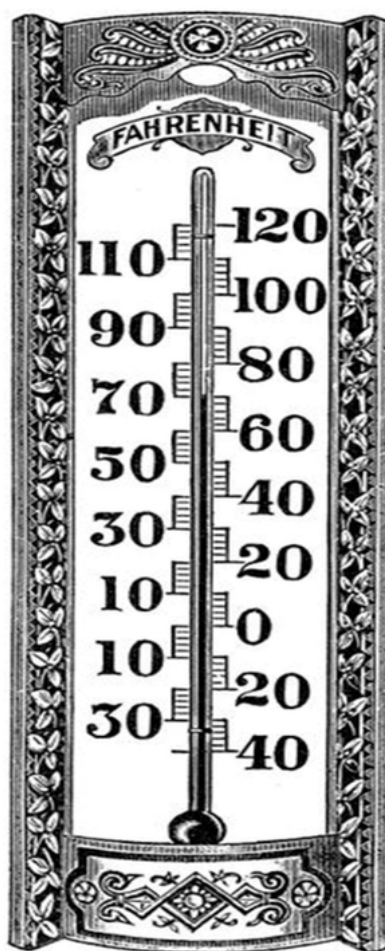
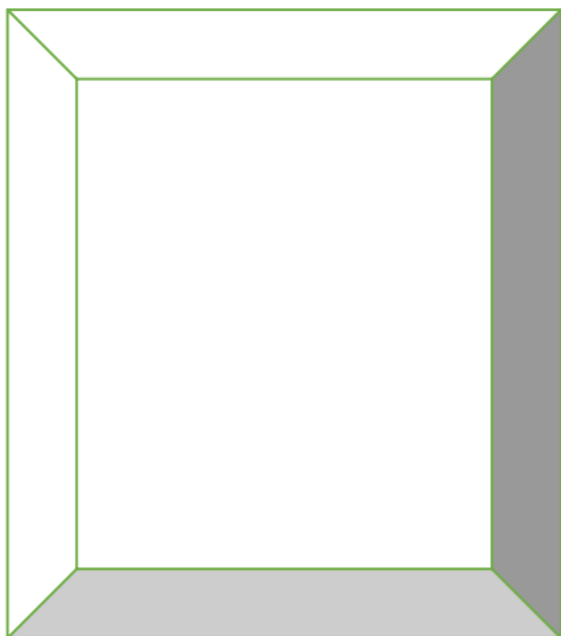
Weather Journal

Day of the Week: _____

Month: _____

Date: _____ Year: _____

The weather today is:



Name: _____ Date: _____

Weather Forecast Worksheet

Have an adult help you look up the weather forecast using the newspaper, television, or internet and fill out the details below.

Tomorrow's weather will be: _____ Chance of precipitation: _____

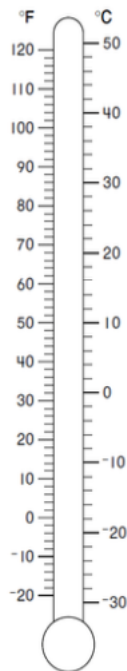
(example: sunny, rainy, foggy, windy, snow, etc.)

Wind speed: _____

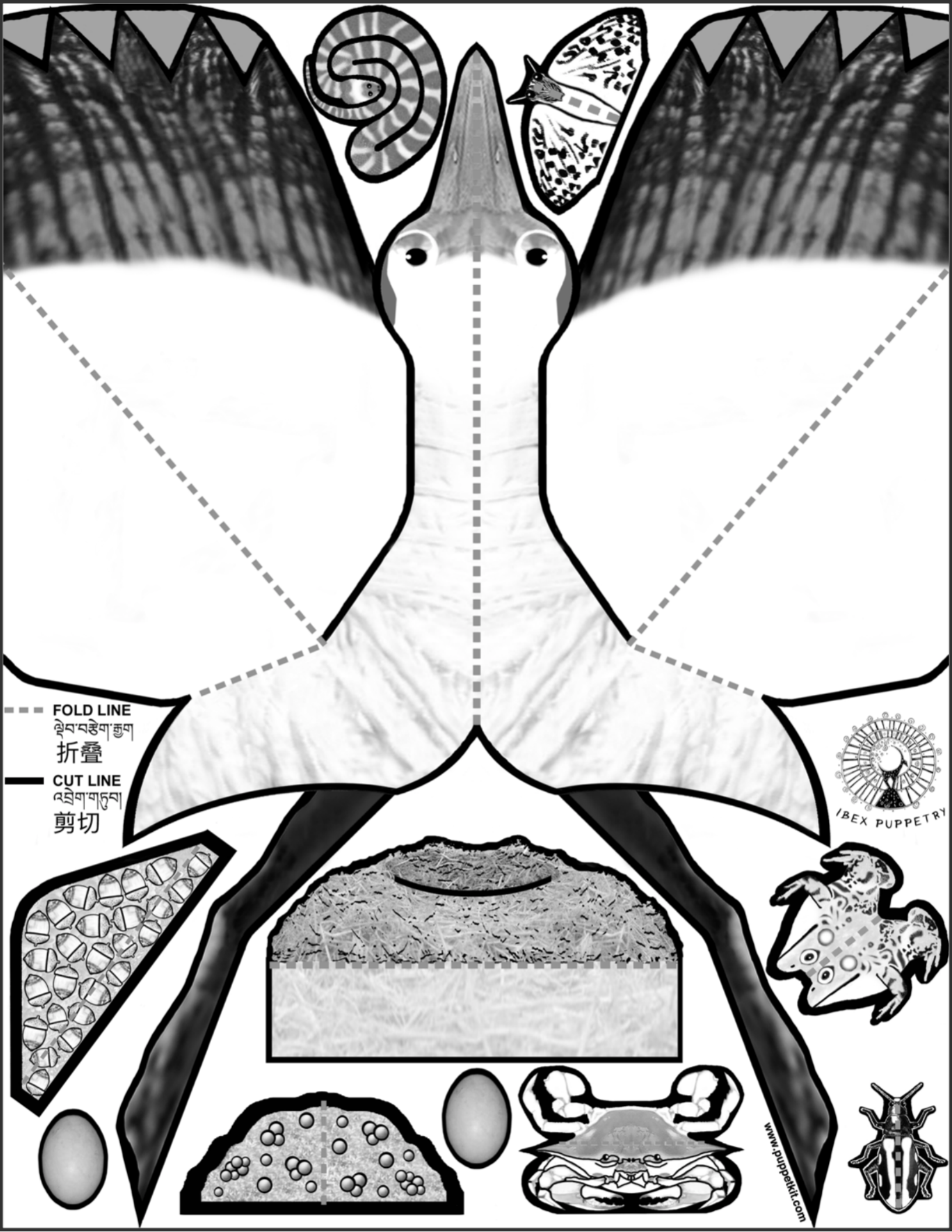
Humidity: _____

Tomorrow's high temperature outside will be: _____

Fill in the thermometer below to the correct temperature:



Draw a picture of what you predict tomorrow's weather will look like:



FOLD LINE

ལྗོངས་བཞེག་རྒྱུ

折疊

CUT LINE

འཛིན་གཏུག་

剪切



IBEX PUPPETRY



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