

**Chapter 15**

**ACTIVITY 15-2**

**• Reading a Weather Map**

**Lab Preview**

1. What kind of map is shown with this activity? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you need a hand lens for this activity? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Meteorologists use a series of symbols to provide a picture of local and national weather conditions. You've already learned about station models, isotherms, and isobars. Let's see how you can interpret weather information from weather map symbols.*

**Problem**

How do you read a weather map?

**Procedure**

Refer to the weather map on page 443 of your text. Use the information provided in the questions along with Appendix L to learn how to read a weather map.

**Materials**

- hand lens
- Appendix L

**Data and Observations**

**Sample data**

	Weather data				
Location	Dew point	Cloud coverage	Pressure	Temperature	Wind Direction
Tucson, AZ					
Albuquerque, NM					
Birmingham					
Miami					
Denver					
San Fran					

↑  
write in this format:  
"from \_ to \_"  
(ex: "from NW to SE")

**Activity (continued)****Analyze**

1. Find the station models on the map for Tucson, Arizona, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Find the dew point, cloud coverage, pressure, and temperature at each location. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. After reviewing information about the spacing of isobars and wind speed in section 15-3, determine whether the wind would be stronger at Roswell, New Mexico, or at Fort Worth, Texas. Record your answer. What is another way to judge the wind speed at these locations? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Determine the type of front near Key West, Florida. Record your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The triangles or half circles on the weather front symbol are on the side of the line toward the direction the front is moving. Determine the direction that the cold front located over Colorado and Kansas is moving. Record your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclude and Apply**

5. Locate the pressure system over Winslow, Arizona. After reviewing section 15-3, describe what would happen to the weather of Wichita, Kansas, if this pressure system should move there.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Prevailing westerlies are winds responsible for the movement of much of the weather across the United States and Canada. Based on this, would you expect Charleston, South Carolina, to continue to have clear skies? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The wind direction line on the station model indicates the direction from which the wind blows. The wind is named for that direction. Infer from this the name of the wind blowing at Jackson, Mississippi. \_\_\_\_\_

# "Reading a Weather Map"

