

Storm Clues

Read weather clues to tell rain, snow, sleet, and hail apart.

SC.5.E.7.4 "Distinguish among the various forms of precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, and hail), making connections to the weather in a particular place and time."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each precipitation word. Circle the nearby words that tell how it formed or what the weather was like when it fell.

Maya's Changing Weather

- ① On a January afternoon, Maya visited her cousin in Asheville, North Carolina. A gray cloud moved over the Blue Ridge Mountains, and drops of liquid water began falling. The air near the ground was above freezing, so the drops stayed liquid. Maya opened her umbrella and called the precipitation rain. Rain can fall during many seasons when water droplets do not freeze.
- ② That evening, temperatures dropped below freezing from the cloud all the way to the ground. Water vapor in the cloud formed ice crystals, which joined into flakes. The flakes did not melt as they fell, so snow covered the sidewalks. Later, a warmer layer melted some falling snow, but a freezing layer near the ground refroze it into small ice pellets. This precipitation was sleet.
- ③ On a spring day, Maya heard thunder during a strong storm. Inside the storm cloud, powerful rising air carried small ice pieces upward again and again. Supercooled water froze onto them in layers. When the ice balls became too heavy for the rising air, they fell as hail. Hail usually falls during thunderstorms, even when the ground is warm. Maya watched the hard balls bounce on the parking lot.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What weather condition allowed rain to fall in Asheville that afternoon?

2 How did the snow and sleet form differently that evening?

3 What precipitation fell during the spring thunderstorm, and what happened inside the cloud before it fell?

4 Why can hail fall even when the ground is warm?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence weather report for a real or imagined place and time. Include two different forms of precipitation, and explain the temperature or cloud conditions that make each form likely.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each precipitation word. Circle the nearby words that tell how it formed or what the weather was like when it fell. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What weather condition allowed rain to fall in Asheville that afternoon?	The air near the ground was above freezing, so the water drops stayed liquid.
2	How did the snow and sleet form differently that evening?	Snow formed as ice-crystal flakes that did not melt. Sleet formed when falling snow melted in a warmer layer and then refroze into small ice pellets near the ground.
3	What precipitation fell during the spring thunderstorm, and what happened inside the cloud before it fell?	Hail fell. Powerful rising air carried small ice pieces upward repeatedly, and supercooled water froze onto them in layers.
4	Why can hail fall even when the ground is warm?	Hail forms as ice balls inside a thunderstorm cloud, then falls when the balls become too heavy for the rising air.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday afternoon in Denver, rain fell because the air near the ground was above freezing. By evening, snow fell after temperatures dropped below freezing from the cloud to the ground. During a later thunderstorm, hail formed as rising air lifted ice pieces through supercooled water.

Accept any accurate weather report that names at least two different forms of precipitation and connects each to correct temperature or cloud conditions. The place and time may be real or imagined.