

# SCIENCE TIMES

Up to date information and issues related to Science, Technology and the Environment

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES US Starts Cloud Seeding Experiments

### Research then Report

Due to the increase in hurricanes around the world, governments are looking into the science behind 'seeding hurricanes'. How would this work? List the benefits and risks. Compare purposeful and accidental weather modification.

Read The Canadian Meteorological And Oceanographic Society's Policy Statement on Weather Modification:

<http://www.cmos.ca/weathermodpole.html>

Keeping Canadians Safe – Hail (Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada)

<http://www.psepc.gc.ca/res/em/nh/ha/index-en.asp>

Coping with Natural Hazards in Canada: Scientific, Government and Insurance Industry Perspectives (U of T)

<http://www.utoronto.ca/env/nh/pt2ch2-2-3.htm>

Major hailstorms in Canada

<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/environment/naturalhazards/majorhailstorms/1>

Accompanying map

<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/environment/naturalhazards/majorhailstorms>

Map – Major hurricanes in Canada

<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/environment/naturalhazards/majorhurricanes>

Would Cloud Seeding Ease the Drought? (The International Development Research Centre, Canada)

[http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-97972-201-1-DO\\_TOPIC.html](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-97972-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html)

### Discussion and Debate

Prepare for a debate on the pros and cons of seeding clouds.

*Discussion questions;*

Where does the water in the clouds go presently?

Will anyone be deprived of water if the clouds are seeded in Wyoming?

Who owns water in clouds?

Is there a role for private companies in doing research?

In managing water?

What possible effects might increased precipitation have on human settlement patterns?

### Role Play

You are an insurance company in the prairies who is constantly paying claims because of hail damage. You hear

that cloud seeding has reduced claims by 50% in the western US. Investigate these claims and put together an argument for or against hiring Weather Modification, Inc.

(<http://www.weathermod.com/>)

You be the Judge: A community is charging that a neighbouring community is stealing rain. The community that has been seeding clouds is defending its strategies.

An anti-war group has accused the government of using cloud seeding technology as a military weapon. You find this too incredible to believe and decide to investigate. Research the Vietnam war and actions taken by the United Nations.

### Related Links

CBC newsclip: Cloud seeding back in style? (2.5min)

<http://archives.cbc.ca/500f.asp?id=1-70-1407-9053>

Documentary (US): Owning the weather (45min)

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=8262483364410309502&sourceid=docidfeed&hl=undefined>

Audio: Weather - or Not (CBC Quirks and Quarks)

<http://www.cbc.ca/quirks/archives/02-03/mar01.html>

Weather Modification Raises Red Flags, but Pushes Ahead

<http://www.informationliberation.com/?id=12828>

Cloud-seeding may take edge off bad weather (The Star Phoenix, Saskatoon)

[http://www.canada.com/saskatoonstarphoenix/news/weekend\\_extra/story.html?id=53272ee7-551d-4019-a5b0-75d8126f8b8f](http://www.canada.com/saskatoonstarphoenix/news/weekend_extra/story.html?id=53272ee7-551d-4019-a5b0-75d8126f8b8f)

China making its own rain to fight forest fires (Discovery)

[http://reports.discoverychannel.ca/servlet/an/discovery/1/20060605/discovery\\_china\\_rain\\_060605?s\\_name=&no\\_ads=](http://reports.discoverychannel.ca/servlet/an/discovery/1/20060605/discovery_china_rain_060605?s_name=&no_ads=)

Weather War? New evidence suggests US & Russia are embroiled in an illegal race to harness the power of hurricanes & earthquakes

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=vie wArticle&code=THE20051008&articleId=1061>

