



Joseph Henry and the History of Weather Prediction

with Joseph Henry, first secretary of the Smithsonian

Portrayed by Dwane Starlin

Podcast Link: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/JosephHenryWeatherPrediction.mp3>

Pre-Listening Questions

- How does weather affect you? How did weather affect people in history?
- What are the implications of being able to predict the weather?

Discussion Questions

- How did weather affect people in the 19th century?
- Why was creating a weather prediction service important to them?
- How was the implementation of new technology important to its creation?
- How did Joseph Henry go about solving the problem of American storms? Can this or has this method be used to solve other problems?

Related Resources from the National Museum of American History

- Joseph Henry: Father of Weather Service
<http://siarchives.si.edu/history/jhp/joseph03.htm>
- Morse-Vail Telegraph Key
http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_1096762

Related Resources from History Explorer

- "What Hath God Wrought" Telegraph Message
<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=4166>
- Morse Telegraph Register
<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=1139>

Related Thinkfinity Resources

- Weather and Agriculture- from National Geographic Xpeditions
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/08/g912/globalclimate.html>
- Extreme Weather on Earth—from National Geographic
http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/activity/extreme-weather-on-earth/?ar_a=1

Related Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 5: Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)
 - Standard 2A: The student understands how the resources of the Union and Confederacy affected the course of the war.

Related Standards for World History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 7: An Age of Revolutions (1750-1914)
 - Standard 5A: The student understands connections between major developments in science and technology and the growth of industrial economy and society.

Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Pre-Listening vocabulary- Define these words:

Meteorology

Smithsonian Institution

Pre-Listening Question:

How does weather affect you?

How did weather affect people in history?

What are the implications of being able to predict the weather?

Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.

Were people able to predict weather before Joseph Henry's weather prediction system?

Why do you think it's important to be able to predict weather?

Why was the telegraph important to Joseph Henry's system?

Who collected this data and how?

Email your questions, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

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