

LETTER FOR FOSS MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

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Hello Students, Teachers, and Families,

To facilitate science teaching and learning during school closures, the FOSS team has provided additional Home/School Connections on the FOSS website <https://www.fossweb.com>. Students and families gain access to resources on FOSSweb through the class pages set up by the teacher. The teachers can leave notes on the class pages for students. Students can read those notes with assignment instructions from the teacher when they sign in to FOSSweb. Note that teachers may, instead, send FOSSweb assignments to students through other established parent communication apps or emails.

The new Home/School Connections for each course are active investigations that can be conducted at home (inside or outdoors), online readings, or online multimedia experiences including research. Most of these activities are part of the existing course that the students are learning, now formatted for students to access at home.

The teacher will decide which of the suggested activities are appropriate for students based on the classroom science experiences students have had through the year. Please refer to the teacher's communications home for specific expectations for assignments. The teacher may assign *FOSS Science Resources* readings, videos, and multimedia from investigations in the module or course.

For Students and Families: To sign in to FOSSweb, use the student user name and password provided by your teacher. Here's a short video to get you started on FOSSweb.

For Student Sign in Video: <https://youtu.be/Fcfjbt7Li2k>

For FOSSweb help: <https://www.fossweb.com/student-parent-help>

Preview the **Course Summary** from the Student Page. The **Module Overview** is available to download as a PDF. The first few pages of the Overview will help to set the context for the Home/School Connections.

For Teachers: For help in setting up and using Class Pages, use the Walk-through Videos on FOSSweb: <https://www.fossweb.com/fossweb-walkthrough-videos>

Visit the Home/School Connection for each module or course you teach, select the specific assignments that will be most relevant to your students at this point in instruction. Communicate with families about which content you are assigning through the Class Pages Notes on FOSSweb or through any other established parent communication channel your school has in place.

Tech support on FOSSweb: <https://www.fossweb.com/contact-us#jotform>

Together we will continue to make progress in science teaching and learning during school closures. Now, more than ever, we appreciate the role that science plays in our lives, and how important it is for citizens of all ages to understand and act based on scientific evidence

Sincerely, The FOSS Team at the Lawrence Hall of Science

FOSS Weather and Water, Home/School Connections, Families version COVID-19 School Closure Instructional Opportunities—March 19, 2020

NOTE: For all online research projects, we suggest that students use our [Internet Disclaimer](#) to help guide their independent evaluation of digital sources.

Explore weather topics: Ask students to search the local newspaper, weekly magazines, or the Internet for articles related to the following weather topics.

- Weather and business
- Weather and health
- Weather and sports
- Weather and recreation
- Weather and clothes
- Weather and travel
- Weather and gardening
- Weather and construction
- Weather and entertainment
- Weather’s effect on a geographic area
- Weather and farming
- Weather and disease
- Weather and wildlife
- Weather and war
- Weather and property damage
- Weather and superstition
- Weather and scientific research
- Weather in space

Sustainability Projects

- **Research solar energy around the globe:** How does solar energy vary around the globe? Students can research online to find sunrise and sunset data throughout the year for the remote city for which they’ve been collecting weather data. How does the city’s solar energy relate to the weather and climate of the city?
- **Investigate insulation and residential building codes:** Have students research the local building codes for insulation of residential buildings. Have them find out how the codes relate to climate.

Explore climate factors

Students can view two additional online activities. “[Climate Regions](#)” provides information about different types of biomes that form on Earth, based on climate factors. “[Weather and Landforms](#)” allows students to explore the relationship between a topographical map of the contiguous United States, showing coastlines and mountain ranges, and weather patterns in those same areas.

Study local climate

Have students consider their local climate. Have students use [Study Local Climate](#) to describe the local climate in terms of precipitation and temperature range. They should use

the information they have learned about climate factors to explain why the local climate is the way it is.

Impact of climate change

Students can explore the [Changing Coastlines](#) online model to observe predicted effects of sea level rise in various regions. They can pick one or more regions and compare the effects, then write a summary of their findings.

Research careers

Have students research science and engineering careers related to the content in this course using the [Science and Engineering Careers Database](#). The database includes information about various careers and features diverse scientists.

- Explore careers in meteorology
Encourage students to find out how one becomes a meteorologist or hydrologist. Here are some questions they should answer.
 - *What types of science and math classes do you need to take?*
 - *Where can you find employment?*Sources of information include the NWS, local TV and radio stations, meteorology or geography departments at colleges or universities, and the Internet. Have students present their findings to the class.

Photo challenges

Students can take photos to answer one of the challenges below and create their own website, social media collection, or share the files with their teacher/classmates.

- Today's Weather Photo Challenge
What's the weather today? Go outside and take a picture that shows the weather. Include the date, temperature, and the humidity in your description, and the month.
- Seasons Photo Challenge
What do the seasons look like where you live? Take a picture of fall, winter, spring, and summer.
- Clouds Photo Challenge
Look at the sky. What kinds of clouds do you see? Take a picture of clouds and research and label them with the cloud type. Make sure to describe the weather in your description.