

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic: Science - 'Why does the wind blow?' - experimenting with moving air

### Reading/discussion:

Here is a short poem for you to read, written by Christina Georgina Rossetti:

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither I nor you,  
But when the leaves hang trembling  
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither you nor I.  
But when the trees bow down their heads  
The wind is passing by.

Why can't we see the wind? Because it is caused by the movement of the air around us and we cannot see the air. But what makes air move? To find out, we will have to do a small experiment:

Light a candle and then pinch out the wick. What happens to the smoke? It rises. Although we cannot see air, we can see smoke because it consists of very tiny particles floating in the air, making it visible. When we lit the candle the air above it was heated by the flame. Warm air weighs less than cool air – we say it is less dense or has a lower pressure – so it rises, in the same way that a light object will float in water while a heavier one may sink.

Cold air is heavier than warm air – we say it is denser or has a higher pressure. When the warm air rises the cold air rushes in to take its place. The same thing happens when the sun shines. It warms some areas of the earth more than others. The warmer air rises just as it did when we lit the candle and the cooler air moves in to replace it. This movement of the air is what makes the wind blow.

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**Activities:**

A. Thinking about it.

Read the poem again. Rossetti tells us that when we see the movement of the leaves and the trees we know the wind is blowing. What else can we see outside that tells us that the wind is blowing? Make a list of everything you can see moving in the wind.

Can you use any of your other senses to tell whether the wind is blowing?

B. Writing about it.

Now choose two or more of the items you have on your list and use them to write your own poem about the wind. If you have time, perhaps you would like to read it to your friends.