

8.2.2 DIY BAROMETER SCRIPT

Everyone in the Jacobs family were counting the days to the annual reunion picnic. But no one more than Sara. But lately she was worried that the weatherman would ruin the big day like he had done the year before. Mother had tried to explain that the weatherman was only making predictions and that it really wasn't his fault. "Why don't we make our own predictions this week?", Mother offered. "We can make a barometer like the ones the forecasters use to study weather changes," she suggested. You can too! Follow along with Sara and her mom as they make a simple weather barometer. You will need a few supplies: a jar, a balloon, a straw and a needle. Plus, scissors for cutting and some fairly sticky glue. First, mother instructed Sara to cut the balloon in half. Then, mother carefully stretched the balloon over the mouth of the jar. Using only the rigid part of the straw, apply some glue along one end of the straw. Adhere it to the balloon so that the straw looks like it's pointing to the center of the rubber top... And glue the needle so it points out of the other end of the straw. Then give everything a chance to dry. Mother took some time to explain about their upcoming experiment and why a barometer could help predict the weather. She said that if the air pressure was high, it would push away rain clouds and they could see it pushing down on the rubber of the balloon stretched across the jar.

She also explained that if the air pressure was low, it was easier for rain clouds to move in. Later, they made plans to track the movement of the straw. The straw would tip up if higher air pressure was pushing down on their experiment. But it would tip down as air pressure lowered. (a beat) The day before the big picnic, Sara checked their readings. She was relieved to see that atmospheric pressure

was on the rise which meant fair weather ahead! Good luck with your weather-watching experiment!