

**Physical Science Laboratory: NOAA.gov**

**Objective:** After successfully completing this laboratory you will be able to use NOAA.gov to find out about current and historical weather.

**Materials:** computer with access to the Internet

**Instructions:** Go to the url: <http://noaa.gov>. Follow the instructions below.

**Detailed Instructions – Step by Step:**

1. Find the + sign next to "Find your local weather" click it and enter your zip code. Click "See full local forecast". Describe the weather in general terms for the next three days:

2. Scroll down the page and locate Radar and Satellite image. These are images on the right side of the page. Choose the link to Radar . It looks like this only it is in color:



Click on this image to go to the Radar. The colorful dots indicate precipitation. What do you see?

Now look on the left hand side of the page and find the words: National Loop.

Click on the Loop word. You will be on this page: [http://radar.weather.gov/Conus/index\\_loop.php](http://radar.weather.gov/Conus/index_loop.php)

Describe what is happening in the animation.

Now choose the Great Lakes Loop. Again click on the word Loop. What do you see now?

3. Now go to this link: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/> Even though we have left the noaa.gov website this is still a site sponsored by NOAA. What part of the United States is currently experiencing extreme drought? Click on the dark red color - this will bring you more information. In the last three months does the drought seem to be getting worse or improving? How do you know?
4. Now go to this link: <http://climate.gov> Scroll down to the global climate dashboard. Click on global average temperatures learn more link. Describe what is occurring to the average global temperature over time. Hold down the shift key and stretch the graph apart - make it wider. Look at what happened from 1964 to 1971. How are these years different?

5. Return to noaa.gov and choose one of the current stories featured in the links on the main page. What is the title of the story you chose?
6. Summarize the main points of the story you chose.
7. As your last task of this laboratory - choose some NOAA link to explore that has not been visited so far. What did you choose? What did you learn?