

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# 3. WEATHER FORECASTING

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**DIRECTIONS:** Using the website (<http://earthscience.wordpress.com/weather-links/>), or paper handouts if the website is not available complete the following questions with the best possible answer.

You have already learned about how to decode station maps as well as how to gather information from radar and satellite images. Now it is time to put that to use in *forecasting* the weather.

## I. Forecasting Temperatures

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Using the link in the top “Current Conditions” section of the website, click on **United States Current Surface Map** [<http://earthscience.wordpress.com/weather-links/>> I. Current Conditions > 1. United States Current Surface Map ] and answer the following questions.

1. On the map below, sketch any fronts and H and L pressure centers. Also, draw an arrow over KS showing which direction the wind is blowing *toward*.



2. What is the *time stamp* on the Current Surface Map (Date & Time)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are there any fronts approaching Kansas? If so, which type(s)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the current temperature in Kansas City? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the current *wind direction* in Kansas City? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Based on the answers you have already given, where is the air coming from (which state) that will be over Kansas City later in the day (which state)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the temperature in the area you described in question #7? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Knowing where the air is coming from, would you say it will get warmer, colder, or stay about the same? \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Forecasting Precipitation

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Go back to the weather forecasting home page: <http://earthscience.wordpress.com/weather-links/>  
Go to the “Current Radar Imagery” section and click on the link for the US radar IMAGE.

Time Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_. On the map below, *lightly shade* the main **radar echoes** are:



Next, go to the “Current Radar” section and click on the link for the US radar **LOOP**. Lightly sketch **arrows** on the map above, indicating which **direction** the radar echoes are moving.

Knowing where those echoes are moving, do you think Kansas will see any precipitation in the next 24 hours? If so, which parts of the state? \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Other Forecasts

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Using the link in the bottom “IV: Forecasts” section of the website, check out **Tomorrow’s National Forecast Map** and answer the following questions.

1. Sketch the placement of pressure centers (H, L), fronts, and storms on the map below.



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**Conclusion:** How does your forecast (from Parts I and II) compare to the forecast you checked in Part III? Describe how it was similar and how it was different (this is called “verification”).