

Purpose: The StormReady Supporter application requires that schools have one or more methods of accessing radar data in the EOC. This mini-research assignment gives students an opportunity to look at multiple ways to look at radar data and to determine the best ones for their school to use. Students will also learn about different signatures on radar images. In addition, this activity will allow students to engage in the 21st Century Skills of Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking.

Special Note: This activity requires students to have internet access.

Instructions to Teacher:

1. Hand out “Worksheet 2-3: Radar” to students. The worksheets open up with a short discussion on what radar is, where radars are located, some basics on the science of radar, and some example radar signatures. Then, the worksheet asks students to investigate different types of radar products out there using the internet and to consider their possible uses in various situations. This activity’s worksheet can be combined with “Worksheet 2-4: Weather Websites”. A suggested list is below to provide to your students.
 - Internet websites (weather.gov, weather.com, Wunderground, AccuWeather, etc.)
 - RadarScope phone app
 - Other phone apps
 - Television Stations (list provided on element 2-4 instructions)

Students should investigate multiple sources of radar data.

2. After students have completed the worksheet, bring students back together to determine the best method(s) of accessing radar data for the building’s decision makers

After the Activity: Ensure that student suggestions are reasonable and possible. If necessary insure that the products the students selected are able to be purchased (although most should be free). Also, make sure administration is introduced to (if necessary) website/app before a severe weather event.

Enrichment Activity: Show this video on how the Moore Tornadoes were followed on radar. This video may be above the Junior High School level but segments of it could be shown to show how radar can be used to find tornadoes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yybGvIQBKmc>

