DIY Barometer

WHAT YOU’LL NEED:
- Empty tin can or glass jar (clean)
- Balloon
- Thick rubber band
- Coffee stirrer or thin straw
- Paper clip
- Glue or tape
- Ruler
- Scissors

1. Cut the bottom off the balloon, then stretch it over the opening of the can/jar. Secure it with the rubber band.

2. Straighten out the paper clip and insert it into the coffee stirrer. If it’s loose, secure it in place with glue or tape.

3. Tape or glue the stirrer and paper clip to the center of the balloon so that it hangs over the edge.
4. Stand your barometer next to the ruler so you can measure the air pressure.

Understanding Your Barometer

**HIGH PRESSURE:** If air pressure is high, the balloon will sink into the can, causing your indicator (paperclip) to rise. High air pressure usually means good weather.

**LOW PRESSURE:** If the air pressure is low, the balloon will expand, making the indicator lower. Low air pressure means a higher chance for clouds and rain or snow.

- Keep your barometer inside.
- On a stormy day, make a mark on your ruler. On a nice day with few or no clouds, make another mark. These are good baselines for measuring low or high pressure.
- If the weather is extreme (good or bad) when you make the barometer, you may need to remove the balloon and reseal the can on a more neutral weather day.

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