

# Activity Sheet 1: Pressure System Handout

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

When air pressure changes, the wind tends to flow from where the air pressure is higher to where the air pressure is lower. This movement of air is influenced by the Coriolis effect (the Earth spinning on its axis) and by the terrain of the Earth. This handout will demonstrate the downward and outward movement of high-pressure systems (clockwise) and the upward and inward movement of low-pressure systems (counterclockwise).

## **High-Pressure Systems**

On a sheet of paper, draw a small circle and write a capital H inside. To demonstrate the movement of a high-pressure system, place your hand with your fingers pointing down on your piece of paper with the circle. Now slowly spread out your fingers as you turn your hands in a clockwise motion. This demonstrates the downward, outward, and clockwise motion of a high-pressure system. Draw a set of arrows extending from the circle and curving away in a clockwise motion. This is a visual representation of a high-pressure system.

## **Low-Pressure Systems**

On a sheet of paper, draw a small circle and write a capital L inside. This demonstrates the movement of a low-pressure system. Place your hands flat on the piece of paper with the circle. Now slowly turn your hand in a counterclockwise motion while pulling your hand up from the desk and dragging your fingers slowly away from the desk. This demonstrates the upward, inward, and counterclockwise motion of a low-pressure system.