

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

Study Notes



- Directed by:** Phil Lord
- Certificate:** U (contains one use of mild language and scenes of mild comic threat)
- Running time:** 90 mins
- Release date:** 18 September 2009

Synopsis

Flint Lockwood is an aspiring inventor but all his wacky creations have been spectacular failures. However, Flint is determined to create something that will improve everyone's life and when his latest machine, designed to turn water into food, makes cheeseburgers fall from the sky it seems he has finally found success! The weather phenomenon brings a lot of attention to his small town but when people get greedy the machine starts malfunctioning and Flint needs help from weathergirl Sam Sparks to shut down the machine and put everything right.

Before seeing the film

1. What do you know about weather? Remind yourself of things you've learnt about the water cycle, rain and cloud formation.
2. What favourite food would you want to fall from the sky? Can you imagine what it would be like if it really starting raining food? Make a list of good things and bad things if it happened.
3. Watch some weather forecasts on television or on the internet. Collect vocabulary and phrases that the weather reporters use. What symbols are used in forecasts and what do they represent? Now it's your turn to be a weather reporter. Draw a map and write a forecast to perform in front of your class.

After seeing the film

1. Flint wants to be a famous inventor and tries to create things that will help people. His remote controlled television doesn't work but he has success (at first) with his machine that turns water into food. What could you invent that would make life easier for families or people who live near you? Think of problems, litter for example, that people have to deal with every day. Now it's your turn to be an inventor. Draw and label a diagram of your invention and write an explanation of how it works. Then, set up a panel of judges in your classroom and present your inventions. Whose is the best?
2. Imagine it's been raining food where you live! Become a journalist and write a newspaper article about the weather phenomenon and how it's affecting people's lives. You could write it as a script and read to a camera like a newsreader. Include an interview with a local person.
3. To have a balanced diet you need to eat food from the five main food groups: carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals. Below is a list of some of the food that falls from the sky in the film. Research the different food groups using packaging, books or the internet and divide these foods into groups. Does all this food represent a balanced diet? What would you need to add?

- cheeseburgers
- fried eggs
- chicken drumsticks
- ice cream
- jelly
- banana
- pizza
- bacon sandwich
- hot dogs
- pancakes
- sweetcorn
- spaghetti and meatballs!

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