DEW POINT

Determine how color affects dew point.

**Materials**
- 1 sheet of white construction paper
- 1 sheet of black construction paper

**Procedure**
- Perform this experiment on several different calm, clear nights.
- Just before sunset, place both sheets of paper on the ground out in the open.
- Check the papers every 30 minutes for 2 hours.

**Results**
Dew forms on the black paper first. On some nights, dew is *only* found on the black paper.

**Why?**
Dew forms on an object when that object cools enough to cause water vapor in the air to condense. Dark materials radiate or lose heat energy faster than materials with a light color. This means that the dew point is reached faster by the black paper. On some nights, the white paper does not get cold enough for the dew to form at all.

To learn more about weather, check out the Pink Palace Museum's *Weather Whys* Program.