How to Predict the Weather Without a Forecast

2. Wind

Long before technology was developed to predict the weather, people relied on observation, patterns and folklore to avoid being caught off-guard by the elements. Once you practice these methods and become attuned to the sky, the air, and animal behaviors, it's possible to predict the weather quite reliably.

Detect the direction of the wind. If you are unable to immediately detect the wind's direction, throw a small piece of grass in to the air and watch its descent. Easterly winds, which blow from the east, can indicate an approaching storm front; westerly winds mean good weather. Strong winds indicate high pressure differences, which can be a sign of advancing storm fronts.

Q. Discuss what other ways are there to help determine the wind direction?
A. some answers:

- Wet your finger with water or saliva and hold it in the air. This allows you to detect even faint breezes, as the side of your finger will grow cool in the direction from which the wind is blowing.
- Light a match or lighter, then observe the behaviour of the flame. If the flame is leaning or blowing toward one side, the wind is coming from the opposite direction. This is not useful in high wind situations, however, as the flame may blow out instantly.
- Look at a wind vane or wind sock. Whatever direction the weather vane is pointing in is the direction that the wind is coming from -- note that weather vanes do not point the same direction the wind blows. The wind sock turns toward the wind and fills out to varying degrees depending on wind speed.

Make a campfire. The smoke should rise steadily. Smoke that swirls and descends is caused by low pressure, meaning rain is on the way.

Check the grass for dew at sunrise. If the grass is dry, this indicates clouds or strong breezes, which can mean rain is coming. If there's dew, it probably won't rain that day. However, if it rained during the night, this method will not be reliable

Observe the leaves. Deciduous trees show the undersides of their leaves during unusual winds, supposedly because they grow in a way that keeps them right-side up during typical prevalent winds