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## Satellites and Weather Balloons: What's Happening in the Sky?

Have you ever looked up at the sky and wondered what the weather will be like tomorrow? Meteorologists, or weather scientists, ask that question every day—and they have special tools to help them find the answer. Two of the most important tools are satellites and weather balloons.

Satellites are machines that orbit, or circle, the Earth high up in space. From way up there, they take pictures of clouds, storms, and even wildfires. Satellites can also measure temperature, wind, and moisture in the air. They send this information back to computers on Earth. Scientists study the data to track storms and make forecasts. Without satellites, we wouldn't know when hurricanes are coming or how big they might get.

Weather balloons are another tool scientists use. These balloons are not like party balloons. They are big and strong, and they carry special instruments high into the sky. As the balloon rises, it measures things like air pressure, temperature, and humidity (how much water is in the air). A small radio sends the information back to Earth in real time. These balloons help meteorologists understand what is happening in the upper layers of the atmosphere, which affects the weather we feel on the ground.

Both satellites and weather balloons give scientists a better view of what's going on in the sky. Satellites show the big picture from space, and weather balloons give up-close data from different heights in the atmosphere. When scientists combine this information, they can make better weather predictions.

So, the next time you hear a weather forecast, remember that a satellite or a balloon might have helped make it happen. Thanks to these high-flying helpers, we can plan for sunny days, stay safe during storms, and understand the sky a little better every day.