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How to Sense the Weather

Ken Bellmard

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Morning Fog
Bryce Lafferty

HOW TO SENSE THE WEATHER

When I was a child, my grandfather and my father would take me outside during different types of weather events.

They would have me first shut my eyes and focus on how the hair on my arms felt and how the pressure in my ears felt. I would look to see how high or low the clouds were and their shape, and the strength and direction of the wind (whether it be constant, swirling, etc.). Also how the air tasted — that may seem strange, but it can taste different in different weather.

After going through these senses, I would look at the sky and the horizon to see what colors they were.

I usually did this barefooted because grass feels different in different weather conditions.

My grandfather and father instructed me to watch what dogs, birds, insects and other animals were doing at the time. They told me that living inside took all the good parts of being an “animal” out of you.

I think that altogether, experience and common sense are the best ways to know the weather.

I always feel like I know better what the weather is going to do when I am in Kansas than when I am anywhere else.

Ken Bellmard is a Kaw Nation tribal member and an American Indian law attorney. He serves as director of government relations for the Kaw Nation. His family was removed from Kansas to Indian Territory in 1872. Ken is active in tribal cultural activities, and he has served as drumkeeper for the Kaw ceremonial I' loska dances.