

## **The Story of a Meteorologist – Dave Nussbaum WWL-TV in New Orleans**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

When I was little and growing up in Pittsburgh I was very afraid of storms. I would cry for my parents in the middle of the night every time it stormed. When I was a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, my Mom wanted me to overcome my fear, so she took me to the local library to check out books about weather. She thought that if I could learn more about the weather that I would become less fearful. She was right! I became hooked and ended up checking out every book on weather. At that age, I knew I wanted to become a meteorologist on TV.

Over the years, major weather events occurred across the U.S. – Hurricane Hugo, Hurricane Andrew, Superstorm '93 and the Mid-West Flooding among others. I was so fascinated by those events and I wanted to know how and why they happened. This fueled my desire to become a meteorologist even more.

Fast forward many years later, I went to college and even chased storms in the Great Plains. I was able to see the storms develop right in front of me and learn even more about how they work. After graduating from college, I got my first job in Erie, Pennsylvania. Then I moved to my second job in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and currently I'm working in New Orleans. I'm living my dream as an on-air meteorologist, and I love every minute of it.

### **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A METEOROLOGIST**

Meteorologists can work in many places from a television station, the National Weather Service, or even for an airline company. No matter where they work, they all must accomplish the same goal; to make an accurate forecast. I'm a meteorologist on TV in New Orleans. I am on the morning news, so my day starts VERY early. I get up at 2:00 AM and I get to work by 3:00 AM! When I arrive, I start the process of making my forecast. First, I check out the current weather by looking at the local temperatures, satellite data, and the radar. Then I start analyzing computer forecast weather model data. These models help me decide if we will see any rain and how hot or cold it will be. Once I'm done analyzing everything, I make my own forecast. After the forecast is done, I update the information on our website, record the weather for the local radio stations and then I start building all of my weather graphics for television.

Next, at 4:30 AM our local newscast starts. Our newscast is on for 4 ½ hours or until 9:00 AM. I have weather updates every 10 minutes. It is important to have plenty of updates since people are just getting up and they need to know how to plan for their day. It is a long newscast, but since I am on television so often, the morning goes by quickly.

At 9:00 AM, the newscast is over, and now I have to update the newsroom on what to expect for the rest of the day at the morning meeting. This way they can plan ahead in case there is bad weather in the city.

After the morning meeting, my work day is over, and I can head home around 10:00 AM. Once I get home, it is time for a nap! One nice thing about working early in the morning, I have most of the afternoon to run errands, make appointments and relax. After dinner, I get ready for bed by 8:00 PM. It is an early bedtime for me since I have to get up very early.

- 1. Dave's mother...**
  - a. wanted him to become a meteorologist.
  - b. was a meteorologist.
  - c. wanted him to overcome his fear of storms.
  - d. read every book she could find on weather.
  
- 2. Which of the following fueled Dave's desire to become a meteorologist?**
  - a. Major weather events that occurred in his childhood
  - b. His childhood fear of storms
  - c. Chasing storms in the Great Plains
  - d. Graduating from college
  
- 3. Which of the following best describes Dave's attitude toward meteorology?**
  - a. indifferent
  - b. questionable
  - c. enthusiastic
  - d. fair
  
- 4. What is the primary goal of a meteorologist?**
  - a. To be on television
  - b. To analyze computer models
  - c. To record weather for local radio stations
  - d. To make accurate forecasts
  
- 5. How does Dave Nussbaum's job differ from typical jobs?**
  - a. A lot of people depend on him
  - b. The hours in which he works are different from most jobs
  - c. He has to work at night
  - d. He works in the field of meteorology
  
- 6. What is Dave doing at 6:00 A.M. on a typical day?**
  - a. Waking up
  - b. Updating the information on the network's website
  - c. Recording the forecast for radio stations
  - d. Giving weather updates on television

- 7. What is the main difference between the two sections of the passage?**
- a. The first section explains the work of a meteorologist and the second section explains the different types of forecasts that can be made
  - b. The first section gives biographical information and the second section tells about the science of meteorology
  - c. The first section gives biographical information and the second section explains a typical day for a meteorologist such as Dave
  - d. The first section is about Dave's childhood and the second section is about the network Dave works at.
- 8. Based on the passage, which of the following does Dave likely think you'll be surprised by?**
- a. That he chased storms in the Great Plains
  - b. That meteorologists work for airlines
  - c. That the morning newscast lasts 4 ½ hours
  - d. That he goes to bed around 8:00 P.M.