



### **On the Fence Activity – Assessment flavor**

#### **Directions:**

- 1) Write down some true statements regarding the topic area you are about to cover (pretest), or that you have just completed (post-test). Also include some statements stating some common misconceptions about these topics.
- 2) Have your students line up shoulder to shoulder. Read each of the statements aloud (one at a time). Instruct the students to step forward if they agree with the statement and step back if they disagree with the statement. No one can stay on the fence. They **MUST** make a decision.
- 3) This activity allows you to visually see where your students are (pre-test) or how well they have absorbed the material (post-test).

**Note to Teachers:** Some sample statements are below. Adapt as needed for your topic and grade level.

#### **Suggested statements that you may read aloud for this activity on the topic of Earth's climate and weather:**

- 1) The greenhouse effect is essential to life on Earth.
- 2) Greenhouse gases are inherently bad for the environment.
- 3) Current global climate change can be attributed to natural cycles in the Earth system.
- 4) Climate change and global warming are primarily due to a dimming Sun.
- 5) Human activities are the primary driving force of global climate change.
- 6) Increasing cloud cover will cool the Earth.
- 7) Increasing cloud cover will warm the Earth.
- 8) The effect of clouds depends on their properties and height.
- 9) Global climate change means that the planet will get warmer everywhere.
- 10) Global climate change includes changes in rainfall patterns.
- 11) The polar regions are most rapidly and strongly affected by climate change.
- 12) The polar regions will always be frozen and icy.
- 13) Aerosols are caused by human activities.
- 14) There are natural and man-made sources of aerosols.
- 15) Aerosols can speed up the melting of snow and ice when dark dust and soot particles fall on these bright surfaces.
- 16) Ocean cycles and currents have a very large impact on our planet's weather and climate.
- 17) The ocean does not affect weather on land.
- 18) The ozone hole is allowing the Earth to heat up.
- 19) The ozone hole allows the Sun's ultraviolet radiation to reach the Earth surface.
- 20) Ozone near the Earth's surface is very bad for plants and animals (and people)