

ATMOSPHERIC ALMANAC

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL TIME

COVID-19 QUARANTINE EDITION

Standard time is measured by atomic clocks, providing a technical basis for global transactions. Might weather be a more meaningful timekeeper? Might attentiveness to natural patterns of rain and wind encourage us to nurture our environment instead of obliterating it? This print-at-home booklet is a template for an annual atmospheric calendar based on careful observation and documentation of weather conditions in your midst. It is designed to be made while sheltering in place.

To create your own local atmospheric almanac, open your window every day and observe meteorological phenomena that seem characteristic of the time of year, such as the color of the sky or the effect of precipitation on nearby trees or the impact of air quality on your mood. Be especially alert to conditions that may be effects of the pandemic (which might significantly decrease carbon emissions due to radically-decelerated activity).

Over the course of a month, your cumulative observations – which may be recorded in any medium, from watercolor painting to musical notation to poetry – will fill one leaf in the twelve-page almanac.

Repeat the process throughout the year, using your eyes and body as meteorological instruments. Make daily observations of the same climate phenomenon each month, documenting its annual cycle in a dozen discrete stages. Consider sharing images of your progress with friends, or uploading them to livingmemories.ch, inviting atmospheric connection that transcends physical distance.

In future years, your almanac will serve as a personal standard for reckoning time by comparing weather patterns to almanac notations, finding the page with the closest match, and reading the month in which the observations were initially made. Changes in meteorological conditions from your pandemic-year baseline will result in a discrepancy between the Gregorian and atmospheric calendar, making apparent any shift in carbon dependency. You can prioritize the planet over atomic clocks and industrial development by acknowledging local weather patterns as a new time standard, and the slowdown of human activity in the pandemic as a new baseline for modern civilization.

- Jonathon Keats

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

USYSTdLab

*Department of Environmental Systems Science
Transdisciplinarity Lab | Science-Society Interface*

MEI

Media
Engineering
Institute

www.livingmemories.ch/almanac