

ATMOSPHERIC ALMANAC

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL TIME

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 booklet is a template for an annual atmospheric calendar based on careful observation and documentation of weather conditions in your midst.

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 barometric pressure on your mood. 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.

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 will result in a discrepancy between the Gregorian and atmospheric calendar. You can prioritize the planet over atomic clocks and industrial development by acknowledging weather patterns as a new time standard and synchronizing your life to the local atmosphere.

– Jonathon Keats

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

