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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SUPERSTITIONS ABOUT RAIN-MAKING

There are several popular superstitions to the effect that rain can be produced by doing certain things to animals. Notions of this sort prevalent in the United States were collected many years ago by the U. S. Weather Bureau. Here are some of them:

Along the Santee River, in South Carolina, it is said that if you catch an alligator, tie him to a tree and whip him to death, rain will follow. (S.P.C.A. please take notice.) In Maine, according to Miss Fanny Bergen, they say: "Kill a frog and it will rain before morning."

Other folklore remnants relate to snakes. James Mooney says: "The belief in a connection between rain and snakes is quite general among Indian tribes. The snake dance is intended to bring rain. The Indians of Indian Territory (Oklahoma) turn a dead snake on its back to bring rain." According to negro folklore rain will fall in a few hours if you hang a dead snake to a tree. Sometimes a snake skin is hung up for this purpose. In northern Illinois the saying is, "Hang up a snake's cast-off skin on the crab-apple tree and it will bring rain."

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