

Exploring the World's Climates with Finn

Learning objective: To understand the difference between weather and climate and identify different climate zones.

Read the passage carefully. Use the text to help you answer the questions in full sentences.

Finn the dolphin loves swimming through the world's vast oceans, but he has noticed that the water and air feel very different depending on where he travels. Finn is learning about the difference between weather and climate. Weather is what happens outside right now—like a sudden rain shower in London. Climate, however, is the average weather pattern in a place over a very long time.

Finn discovered that places near the equator have a tropical climate. These areas are usually warm and wet all year round, which is why lush rainforests grow there. As Finn swims further north or south towards the poles, the climate changes. In the polar regions, the climate is freezing, and the landscape is covered in ice and snow. Finn knows he wouldn't like the polar regions too much because the water is far too chilly for a dolphin! By mapping these different zones, Finn can see how the Earth's tilt and distance from the sun create the diverse environments that plants and animals call home.

Word bank: climate · equator · tropical · temperature · patterns

1. What is the difference between weather and climate according to the text? (2 marks)

2. Which climate zone is described as being warm and wet all year round? (1 mark)

3. Why does Finn think he would not enjoy visiting the polar regions? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why do you think lush rainforests are found near the equator rather than at the poles? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for animals to live in a climate that suits their bodies? Explain your answer using examples from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Finn the dolphin swimming in a tropical climate. Include a lush rainforest on the shoreline!



Extension challenge: Research one other type of climate (such as an arid or desert climate) and write two sentences explaining what the weather is usually like there.