

Weather and Climate with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To distinguish between weather and climate and identify how they differ.

Read the passage carefully. Use a pencil to underline the key differences between weather and climate before answering the questions.

Finn the dolphin loves exploring the world's oceans, but he has noticed something interesting. Some days, the surface of the water feels chilly and a stormy wind whips up the waves. Other days, the sun shines brightly, and the water is warm and calm. Finn knows that these short-term changes are called 'weather'. Weather can change in just a few minutes!

However, Finn also knows that some parts of the world are always different. Near the equator, it is generally hot and humid all year round, while the poles are freezing and icy. This long-term pattern is called 'climate'. While weather tells us what to wear today—perhaps a raincoat or a sun hat—climate tells us what clothes to keep in our wardrobe for the whole year. Nova the owl explained to Finn that scientists look at weather patterns over many years, usually thirty, to determine the climate of a region. By understanding both, Finn can predict where he might find the warmest currents for his next big adventure.

Word bank: Atmosphere · Precipitation · Climate · Average · Temperature

1. According to the text, how many years of weather patterns do scientists usually look at to determine the climate? (1 mark)

2. What are the two examples of weather Finn experiences on the ocean surface? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author say that weather tells us what to wear 'today' but climate tells us what to keep in our 'wardrobe'? (2 marks)

4. How does Finn's understanding of climate help him plan his adventures? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is more important for a traveller to know the weather or the climate of a place before they go? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split picture: on one side, show a 'weather' scene (like a sudden rainstorm) and on the other, show a 'climate' scene (like a permanently icy polar region).



Extension challenge: Research a city in a different continent. Write one sentence describing its general climate and one sentence describing what the weather might be like there today.