

Exploring Weather and Climate with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To describe and compare the differences between weather and climate in different parts of the world.

Finn the Dolphin is traveling the globe! Use this frame to write a report explaining the difference between weather and climate, and how they change depending on where you are in the world.

Weather and climate might seem like the same thing, but they are actually very different ways of looking at our atmosphere.

Word bank: temperature · precipitation · average · tropical · polar · temperate · seasonal · humidity · whereas · similarly · consequently

1. What is weather? (Start by explaining that weather is short-term. Use words like 'today' or 'right now'.)

2. What is climate? (Explain that climate is the average weather over a long time. How many years do scientists usually look at?)

3. What is the climate like in a tropical region? (Describe the temperature and rainfall. What would Finn see if he swam near the equator?)

4. How is a polar climate different from a tropical one? (Compare the temperatures and the types of precipitation you might find at the North or South Pole.)

5. What is the climate like in the UK? (Describe our temperate climate. Mention that we have four seasons and how the weather changes throughout the year.)

6. Why is it important to know the difference between weather and climate? (Think about how it helps people decide what clothes to wear today versus what houses to build in a certain country.)

Extension challenge: Can you research one specific city in a different climate zone and write a paragraph comparing its average January temperature to the average temperature in your own town?