

Finn's Global Weather Explorer: Climate Comparison Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and compare the differences between weather and climate, and investigate how climate zones affect life in different parts of the world.

Use this fact-file to research two different climate zones. Follow Finn the Dolphin's guide to compare how weather patterns change across the globe. Write in full sentences, use precise geographical vocabulary, and ensure you justify your findings using evidence from your research.

Word bank: precipitation · temperature · equatorial · polar · climate zone · meteorology · atmosphere · seasonal variation

1. Define the difference between 'weather' and 'climate'. Explain why it is important for meteorologists to distinguish between the two when studying the atmosphere. (3 marks)

2. Choose two contrasting climate zones (e.g., Polar and Tropical). Describe the typical weather patterns found in each. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the impact of climate on human activity in your two chosen zones. How do people adapt their homes or clothing to suit the climate? (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why do regions closer to the Equator generally have higher temperatures throughout the year compared to those near the poles? (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the local wildlife if a region experienced a permanent shift in its climate zone (for example, if a temperate forest became a desert)? (3 marks)

6. Evaluate the importance of monitoring climate data over a long period. Why is a single day of record-breaking sunshine not proof of a changing climate? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer travelling between two vastly different climate zones. Write a creative diary entry describing the change in the landscape, the sounds of the environment, and the specific equipment you would need to survive the transition.