

Exploring Weather and Climate with Finn

Learning objective: To understand the difference between weather and climate and identify how they affect our world.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Finn the dolphin spends his time exploring the vast oceans, mapping the currents that shape our planet. He often explains to his friends that there is a big difference between weather and climate. Weather describes what is happening outside right now. It might be raining in London this morning, or sunny in Cornwall this afternoon. Weather changes quickly, sometimes from hour to hour, based on the conditions of the atmosphere.

Climate, however, is much more steady. It is the average pattern of weather in a specific place over a very long time, usually thirty years or more. While a day might be unusually cold, a region with a tropical climate stays warm and humid throughout the year. Finn observes how climate affects the environment, such as which plants grow in a forest or how sea levels change. By tracking these patterns, scientists can understand how our world is shifting. Whether it is a sudden thunderstorm or a long-term change in global temperatures, Finn knows that observing our planet is the first step toward caring for it.

Word bank: Atmosphere · Precipitation · Meteorology · Temperature · Climate · Weather · Environment

1. According to the text, what is the main difference between weather and climate? (2 marks)

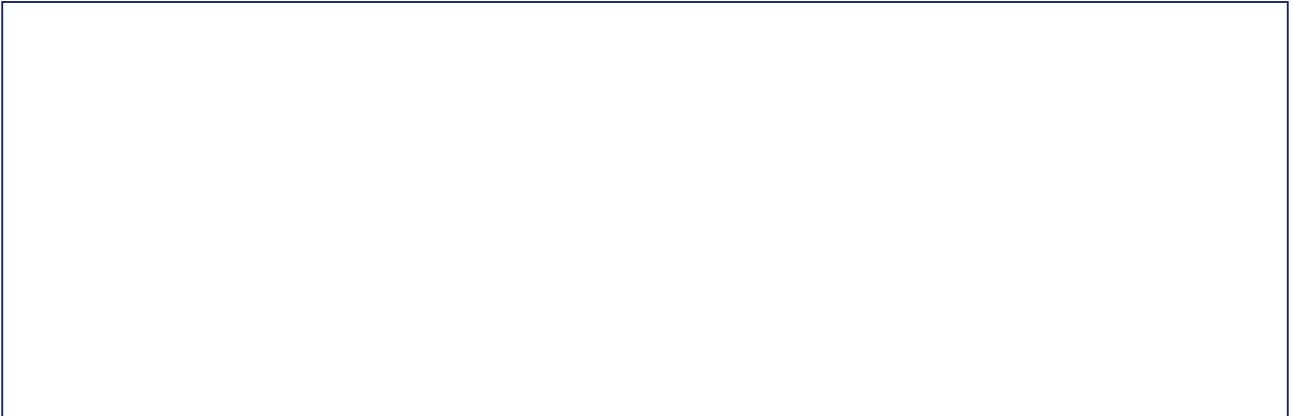
2. How long do scientists typically study weather patterns to determine the climate of a region? (1 mark)

3. Why might Finn be interested in how the climate affects the environment? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why is it inaccurate to say a place has a 'cold climate' just because it snowed there once? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it is important for scientists to track long-term climate patterns? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration showing 'Weather' on one side (e.g., a sudden rain shower) and 'Climate' on the other (e.g., a long-term sunny, tropical landscape).



Extension challenge: Research one type of extreme weather (such as a hurricane or a drought) and write a short paragraph explaining how it might impact the daily lives of people living in that region.