Exploring Global Climates with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and compare different climate zones across the world and understand the factors that affect them.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of world geography to provide detailed answers. Finn the Dolphin has been mapping the world's oceans and climates and needs your help to complete his logbook!

Finn the Dolphin has travelled from the icy waters of the Arctic to the warm, sunny reefs near the Equator. He has observed that different parts of the world have very different weather patterns over long periods of time. These patterns create distinct climate zones. By looking at a globe and understanding lines of latitude, we can predict what the weather might be like in different regions.

Word bank: Equator · Tropics · Temperate · Polar · Latitude · Precipitation · Atmosphere · Climate zones

1. Finn is swimming near the Equator. Explain why the climate in this region is typically much warmer than the climate near the North or South Poles. (2 marks)

2. Name three different climate zones and describe one key feature of the weather you would expect to find in each. (3 marks)

3. How does 'climate' differ from 'weather'? Use an example to support your explanation. (2 marks)

4. Why do you think countries located in the 'Temperate' zone often have four distinct seasons, whereas countries near the Equator do not? (2 marks)

5. If a traveller wanted to visit a region with a 'Polar' climate, what kind of clothing and equipment would they need to take and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the Earth. Label the Equator, the Northern Hemisphere, the Southern Hemisphere, and draw a symbol in each climate zone (e.g., a snowflake for Polar, a sun for Tropical) to show what the weather is like there.

Extension challenge: Research a country of your choice. Write a short 'Travel Guide' for that country describing its climate zone, what the average temperature feels like, and what time of year is best to visit based on the weather.