

Finn's Global Weather Expedition

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

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Use full sentences and refer back to the text to support your answers.

Finn the dolphin spends his time mapping the world's vast oceans, but he often pauses to observe the sky above the waves. Finn knows that weather is what is happening outside right now. It is the daily change in temperature, wind, and precipitation that we see when we look out of the window. In the UK, the weather can change from a bright, sunny morning to a grey, drizzly afternoon quite quickly.

Climate, however, is very different. While weather is a short-term event, climate describes the average weather patterns in a specific place over a long period, usually thirty years or more. For example, the tropical rainforests have a hot and humid climate, while the polar regions have a cold, icy climate. Finn has noticed that even though the weather changes daily, the climate of a region stays relatively consistent. By studying these patterns, geographers can predict what kind of environment to expect. Whether it is a sudden thunderstorm or a long-term shift in global temperatures, understanding these atmospheric conditions helps us respect the delicate balance of our planet's diverse ecosystems.

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

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

2. List two examples of weather conditions mentioned by Finn in the passage. (2 marks)

3. Explain why scientists need to observe weather patterns for at least thirty years to determine a climate. (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the animals living in the polar regions if the climate were to change significantly? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Is it more useful for a farmer to know the climate of their country or the daily weather forecast? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen image. On the left, draw a 'weather' scene showing a sudden, rainy day. On the right, draw a 'climate' scene showing a stable, hot, and sunny desert environment.



Extension challenge: Research a country with a different climate to the UK. Create a short 'Travel Guide' entry explaining what clothes a visitor would need to pack and why, justifying your choices based on the region's climate.