

Weather and Climate: The Earth's Great Patterns

Join Finn the Dolphin on a global journey to uncover the secrets of our atmosphere!

- **Weather describes the short-term state of the atmosphere, including rain, sunshine, and wind, happening right now outside your window.**
- **Climate is the long-term pattern of weather in a specific area, usually tracked over three decades to identify trends.**
- **The Equator is an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth; places near it are generally much warmer because they receive more direct sunlight.**
- **There are three main climate zones: Tropical (hot and wet), Temperate (mild with changing seasons), and Polar (very cold and icy).**
- **Precipitation is any water falling from the sky, which includes rain, snow, sleet, and hail.**
- **Latitude affects climate; the further you move from the Equator towards the North or South Poles, the lower the average temperature becomes.**

Did you know? Did you know? Even though the weather changes from hour to hour, the climate of a place is the average weather pattern measured over at least 30 years! While you might experience a rainy Tuesday, the climate of a tropical rainforest remains hot and humid all year round.

Key vocabulary: Atmosphere · Precipitation · Equator · Temperature · Meteorology · Climate Zone · Latitude