

Finn's Global Climate Expedition

Learning objective: To understand the differences between climate zones and the factors that influence global weather patterns.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences and clear evidence from the text to support your points.

Finn the dolphin has travelled across the world's vast oceans, observing how different climates shape our planet. A climate is not just the weather on one day; it is the average pattern of weather in a place over many years. Near the equator, Finn swims through tropical regions where the sun shines directly, keeping the water warm and the air humid throughout the year. As Finn travels towards the poles, the climate changes dramatically. In polar regions, the sun's rays are much weaker, resulting in freezing temperatures and icy landscapes. Between these extremes lie the temperate zones, where Finn observes distinct seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter. Here, rainfall is moderate and temperatures change throughout the year. Climate is influenced by many factors, including how close a place is to the equator, how high the land is above sea level, and how far it is from the sea. Finn notes that because our world is so diverse, life has adapted in remarkable ways to survive in these varying conditions. From the thick blubber of creatures in the icy north to the lush rainforests of the tropics, every organism is shaped by its climate.

Word bank: climate · equator · polar · temperate · atmosphere · latitude · precipitation

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

2. Name three factors that Finn mentions which can influence a region's climate. (3 marks)

3. Why do you think polar regions have much colder climates than regions near the equator? (2 marks)

4. How does the author suggest that living things have responded to different climate zones? (2 marks)

5. If you were planning an expedition, which climate zone would you choose to visit and why? Justify your choice by comparing it to another zone. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the world showing three distinct climate zones, and illustrate one animal that might live in each zone.



Extension challenge: Explain why a mountain range might have a different climate than the low-lying land next to it. What might happen to the animals in a polar climate if the average temperature began to rise significantly over the next fifty years?