

Weather and Climate Discovery with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the difference between weather and climate and identify key meteorological terms.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of how the atmosphere works. Finn the Dolphin has helped gather these facts from his travels across the world's oceans!

What is the difference between 'weather' and 'climate'?

Weather refers to the short-term state of the atmosphere (what is happening right now), while climate is the average weather pattern in a place over a long period, usually 30 years or more.

What is the definition of 'precipitation'?

Any form of water, liquid or solid, that falls from the atmosphere and reaches the ground, including rain, snow, sleet, and hail.

What is 'temperature' and how do we measure it?

Temperature is a measure of how hot or cold the air is. It is measured using a thermometer, typically in degrees Celsius (°C).

What does the term 'atmosphere' mean?

The layer of gases, commonly known as air, that surrounds the Earth and is held in place by gravity.

How does the 'Equator' affect climate?

Places near the Equator are generally warmer because they receive more direct sunlight throughout the year compared to areas near the poles.

What is 'humidity'?

The amount of water vapour (invisible water) present in the air.

What is the study of weather called?

Meteorology. A scientist who studies this is called a meteorologist.

What is 'latitude'?

The distance of a place north or south of the Equator, measured in degrees.

True or False: Climate changes every day.

False. Climate is based on long-term trends; weather is what changes daily.

What is a 'climate zone'?

A large area of the Earth that shares a similar climate, such as tropical, temperate, or polar zones.

Why is the ocean important to the world's climate?

The ocean absorbs heat from the sun and distributes it around the planet through currents, which helps regulate global temperatures.

What does a barometer measure?

A barometer measures atmospheric pressure, which helps meteorologists predict changes in the weather.