

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 the word bank to help you understand the key vocabulary.

Finn the dolphin has spent years navigating the world's vast oceans, observing how different environments shape life on Earth. As he travels from the icy poles toward the tropical Equator, he notices a dramatic shift in climate. Near the Equator, the air is consistently warm and humid, with heavy precipitation throughout the year, sustaining lush rainforests. In contrast, Finn's journeys into temperate zones, such as the United Kingdom, reveal a landscape defined by four distinct seasons. Here, the climate is influenced by the surrounding seas, which keep winter temperatures from becoming too extreme. Finn also observes arid regions, where extreme heat and very low rainfall create vast, dry deserts. He understands that a region's latitude is the primary factor determining its climate; the closer a location is to the Equator, the more direct sunlight it receives. By mapping these zones, Finn helps his friends appreciate why a polar bear could never thrive in the desert, and why a palm tree would struggle in the frost of a British winter.

Word bank: Climate: The long-term weather pattern of a region. · Equator: An imaginary line dividing the Earth into northern and southern hemispheres. · Precipitation: Rain, snow, sleet, or hail. · Latitude: The distance north or south of the Equator. · Temperate: A climate with mild temperatures and distinct seasons.

1. According to the passage, what is the primary factor that determines a region's climate? (2 marks)

2. Identify two characteristics of the climate found near the Equator as described by Finn. (2 marks)

3. Why might the ocean be important for the climate of countries like the United Kingdom? (3 marks)

4. Explain why it is impossible for a polar bear to survive in a desert environment, using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

5. Do you think climate change could alter the migration patterns of animals like Finn? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the world showing the three main climate zones: Polar, Temperate, and Tropical. Add Finn the dolphin swimming in the ocean near the Equator.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the climate of the UK with that of a tropical rainforest. Justify why different types of vegetation grow in these two areas. What might happen if global temperatures rose by two degrees Celsius? Write a short report from Finn's perspective.