

Exploring Global Climates: A Geographical Report

Learning objective: To describe and explain the differences between global climate zones and the impact of latitude.

Use this scaffold to construct your report. Finn the Dolphin has provided these prompts to help you organise your research on how climate varies across the Earth.

Across our vast planet, the climate is not uniform; instead, it is shaped by complex geographical factors that create distinct zones.

Word bank: equator · tropics · latitude · hemisphere · precipitation · arid · temperate · consequently · furthermore · in contrast · significantly · due to

1. Introduction to Climate Zones: Define what climate is and explain the role of the equator in determining temperatures. Start by saying: 'Climate refers to the long-term weather patterns of a region, and one major influence is...' (2 marks)

2. The Tropical Zone: Describe the characteristics of the climate near the equator. Consider: 'The tropical zone is defined by high temperatures and significant rainfall because...' (2 marks)

3. Temperate Climates: Compare and contrast a temperate climate with a tropical one. You might write: 'In contrast to the tropics, temperate regions experience four distinct seasons, which means...' (3 marks)

4. Polar Extremes: Justify why areas at high latitudes, such as the Arctic or Antarctic, remain frozen for most of the year. Consider: 'At the poles, the climate is frigid primarily because...' (3 marks)

5. The Impact of Human Activity: Explain why some climates are becoming more volatile. You could start: 'Human activity is affecting global climates, for example...' (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise your findings. What might happen if global temperatures continue to rise? 'In conclusion, the balance of our climate zones is delicate; if temperatures rise, then...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific biome (e.g., a tropical rainforest or a tundra). Create a detailed 'Climate Fact File' that includes average annual rainfall and temperature ranges. Then, write a persuasive paragraph explaining how animals in that biome have adapted to their specific climate conditions.