

Finn's Global Weather Expedition

Learning objective: To understand the difference between weather and climate and identify how they vary across different geographical zones.

Finn the dolphin has been travelling the globe to map weather patterns. Help him sort the following statements into two categories: 'Weather' (short-term conditions) or 'Climate' (long-term patterns). Then, use your knowledge to answer the analytical questions below.

Word bank: Atmosphere · Precipitation · Equator · Temperature · Meteorology · Tropical · Arid · Polar

1. Sort these statements: 1) 'It is raining in London today.' 2) 'The Sahara Desert is typically dry all year round.' 3) 'There is a thunderstorm expected this afternoon.' 4) 'The Arctic has very cold winters and cool summers over many decades.' Which category does each belong to and why? (4 marks)

2. Explain why the climate near the Equator is generally warmer than the climate near the North and South Poles. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the weather in a tropical rainforest with the weather in a temperate forest. What key differences might you observe in a single week? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If a region experiences one unusually hot summer, does this mean the climate of that region has changed? Why or why not? (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the local wildlife if a region that is usually 'arid' suddenly experiences a climate shift to 'tropical' over many years? (3 marks)

6. Finn needs to buy supplies for his trip. He spends £12.50 on a waterproof map and £8.75 on a thermometer. How much change does he get from a £25 note? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram showing the Earth. Label the Equator, the Tropical Zone, and the Polar Zones. Add symbols to show the typical weather you would expect to see in each zone.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a climatologist. Write a short, formal report predicting how the climate of your local area might affect the types of houses people build there. Use the term 'adaptation' in your explanation.