

# Exploring Global Climates with Finn the Dolphin

*Learning objective: To understand the difference between weather and climate and recognise how global climate zones are categorised.*

Read the text carefully, then answer the questions provided. Ensure your answers are written in full, coherent sentences.

Finn the dolphin spends his days swimming across the world's vast oceans, observing how the sky changes from one region to the next. He often explains to his friends that there is a significant difference between weather and climate. Weather describes the short-term state of the atmosphere, such as a sudden rain shower or a windy afternoon in the UK. Climate, however, refers to the long-term patterns of weather in a specific area, usually averaged over thirty years or more.

Finn has mapped the globe into distinct climate zones. Near the Equator, the climate is tropical, characterised by high temperatures and heavy precipitation throughout the year. As he travels further north or south, he encounters temperate zones, where the seasons are distinct and the weather is varied. In contrast, arid regions experience very little rainfall, creating harsh deserts. By studying these patterns, scientists can better understand how our planet functions. Whether it is the biting frost of the polar regions or the sweltering heat of the tropics, each climate zone plays a vital role in supporting the diverse life that Finn encounters on his long, oceanic journeys.

*Word bank: Atmosphere · Precipitation · Meteorology · Equatorial · Temperate · Arid*

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

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**2. Name two specific climate zones mentioned by Finn in the passage. (2 marks)**

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**3. Why might Finn need to look at data spanning thirty years to determine the climate of a region, rather than looking at a single week of weather? (2 marks)**

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**4. Explain why life in an arid climate might be more challenging for animals compared to life in a temperate climate. (2 marks)**

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**5. Do you agree that studying climate zones is essential for protecting the planet? Justify your answer using examples from the text. (3 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a map of the world and label three different climate zones, adding small illustrations to show the type of weather you might expect in each area (e.g., a sun for arid, snowflakes for polar).



*Extension challenge: Imagine you are a scientist exploring a newly discovered island. Write a short report describing its climate. Use higher-level vocabulary to explain how the climate influences the plants and animals that might live there. Justify why this island should be protected by the Global Conservation Society.*