Exploring World Climates with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify and describe the characteristics of different climate zones around the world, including the Equator and the Poles.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of world climates to answer. Think about how temperature and rainfall change depending on where you are on the Earth.

Finn the Dolphin is travelling the globe! He has noticed that some places near the middle of the Earth are very hot and rainy, while the places at the very top and bottom of the Earth are freezing cold and covered in ice. These different areas are called climate zones.

Word bank: Equator · Arctic · Antarctic · Tropical · Temperature · Precipitation · Climate Zone · Polar

1. Finn is swimming near the Equator. Based on what you know about climate zones, would you expect the water here to be hot or cold? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

2. Name the two polar regions at the very top and bottom of our planet where the climate is very cold. (2 marks)

3. What is the difference between 'weather' (what is happening outside today) and 'climate' (the usual weather over a long time)? (2 marks)

4. If a tropical rainforest is located near the Equator, why does it have a high amount of precipitation (rain) throughout the year? (2 marks)

5. If you were planning a holiday, would you pack a thick coat or a sun hat to visit the Antarctic? Why? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a map of the world. Use a red crayon to draw a line around the middle (the Equator) and label it 'Hot Zone'. Use a blue crayon to colour the top and bottom of your map and label them 'Cold Polar Zones'.

Extension challenge: Research one country that is in a 'Temperate' climate zone (like the UK). Write three sentences describing what the weather is like there during the four seasons.