Exploring Weather and Climate with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the difference between weather and climate, and to recognise how weather patterns vary across the globe.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of geography to answer them. Look at the word bank if you need help with your spelling.

Finn the dolphin is travelling across the world's oceans! He notices that in some places, the sun shines every day and the water stays warm all year. In other places, the sea is chilly and there are frequent storms. Finn knows that the daily changes he sees are weather, while the long-term trends he observes over many years are the climate.

Word bank: Climate · Weather · Temperature · Precipitation · Equator · Atmosphere · Pattern

1. Explain the difference between 'weather' and 'climate' in your own words. (2 marks)

2. If Finn is swimming near the Equator, would you expect the climate to be generally hot or cold? Give a reason for your answer. (2 marks)

3. List three different types of weather you might experience in the UK during a single week. (3 marks)

4. Why is it important for farmers to understand the climate of the area where they grow their crops? (2 marks)

5. Finn wants to buy a new waterproof coat for his travels. If he is visiting a place with high precipitation, what does he need the coat for? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw two pictures side-by-side: one showing a scene with 'sunny weather' and one showing a scene representing a 'polar climate'. Label your drawings with the correct terms.

Extension challenge: Research a country of your choice. Write two sentences about its climate and one sentence about the weather you might see there today.