

Geography - Wild Weather: Why is the UK's weather so unpredictable?

Year 3 Spring 2

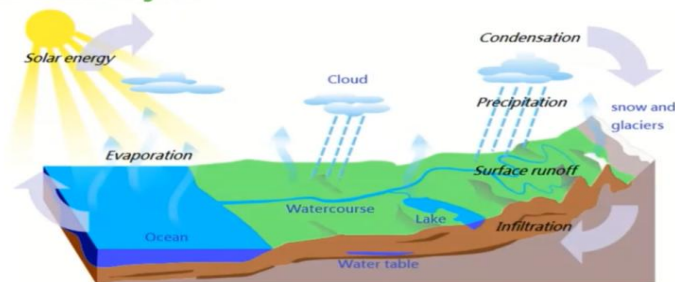
Key Facts

Where is the Earth's water?

Most of the Earth's water is **saline**, which means it has salt in it. 96.5% of it is found in oceans and only 2.5% is freshwater, the water we need for life.

Water is constantly moving around the Earth in a process called **the water cycle**.

The Water Cycle



Step 1) Evaporation:

water is heated up by the sun and turns into water vapour. The water vapour rises into the air.

Step 2) Condensation:

in the air, the water vapour cools down and turns into water droplets that form clouds.

Step 3) Precipitation: the clouds get heavy and the water falls back to the ground.

Step 4) Run-off: rain water heads back to the ocean and the process starts again.

Why should we learn about weather and climate?

So much of our life is affected by the weather, but understanding the relationship between weather and climate is an important geographical skill. So too is understanding how they affect the habitats of different animals and plants, and the affect they have on human lives in different parts of the world.

Vocabulary

Air masses – Huge areas of air that have the same temperature and the same amount of water vapour.

Climate - The average temperature and amount of precipitation over a long period of time (see climate map).

Convictional rainfall – rain that occurs when the sun's energy heats up water and turns it into a water vapour, causing it to evaporate.

Precipitation – When water falls back to the ground as rain, sleet, snow or hail.

Rain shadow – The side of a mountain that does not get much rain.

Water cycle – How water moves around the Earth, evaporating and condensing.

Weather – What's happening in the atmosphere, changing day by day, hour by hour. It is made up of 6 components: temperature, atmospheric pressure, wind, humidity, precipitation and cloudiness.

Website Links

- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/make-a-w>
- https://www.weatherwizkids.com/?page_id=5
- <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/forecast/gcqwtdw7#?date=2022-02-20>
- <https://www.geoguessr.com/seterra/en/vgp/3146>

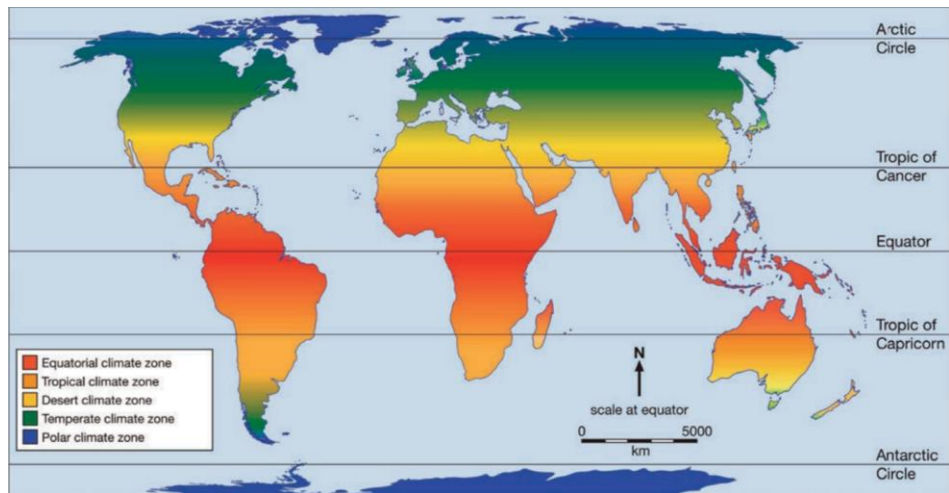
Enquiry Questions

- What makes up the weather?
- Where is Earth's water?
- Why does it rain?
- Where are the world's climate zones?
- Why is the weather in the UK unpredictable?
- What's so special about the Mediterranean?
- What's the weather like in Italy?
- How does the geography of Bologna affect the people who live there?

Geographical Skills

- Accurately measure and collect information, e.g. rainfall, temperature, wind speed.
- Make inferences by looking at a weather chart.
- Make plausible predictions about what the weather may be like in different parts of the world.
- Demonstrate an awareness of different weather in different parts of the world, especially Europe.
- Explain how the lives of people living in the Mediterranean would be different from their own.

Map 1: Map of the World's Climate Zones



Map 2: Map of the Mediterranean Sea



Map 3: Regions of Italy

