

KS1 Geography: The seasons

What is the weather like around the world?

MADDIE: Hello! What are you up to?

CHILD: We're at this science centre to find out about weather all around the world.

MADDIE: From sun to rain to snow, weather is all around us every day, but did you know that weather patterns are different depending on where you are in the world?

CHILD: Phew! We're in the rainforest room! It's very hot and damp here.

MADDIE: Yes! Rainforests can be found in the Tropics. These are the parts of the Earth that are close to the Equator. The Equator is an imaginary line that runs around the middle of the Earth. The weather here is mostly hot and humid, with wet and dry seasons.

CHILD: So in the Tropics they have no wintertime?

MADDIE: No winter, but there are still changes in the weather patterns here at different times of year and the conditions are perfect for plants to grow!

CHILD: We've found somewhere really cold and icy!

MADDIE: You are in the polar room, so you're feeling what the weather is like in the Earth's polar regions. The Earth has two polar regions, the North Pole - or the Arctic region - which is found at the most northern point. And the South Pole - or the Antarctic region - which is at the most southern part. These are the parts of the Earth that get the fewest of the sun's rays.

CHILD: That's why it's so cold!

MADDIE: Yes, the polar regions are extremely cold and windy. This is where you will find glaciers, icebergs and and lots of snow!

CHILD: So, the weather in other parts of the world is different to to ours in the UK?

MADDIE: Yes, that's right. Different parts of the world have very different weather patterns. Lets find out what the weather is like in India...

CHILD: Hi, my name is Yohaán and I live in Delhi in India. Right now the season is winter. It might be very pleasant and sunny but it's also chilly at the same time. Also, summer is approaching, as you can see the flowers are blooming. I also like summer because I get to play my favourite sport - football!

CHILD: Monsoon season is when the rain falls down and there are a lot of high chances of floods. I like this season because the rain falls down and it helps plants to grow more larger and better. Bye, see you next time!

MADDIE: Wow, that's so interesting!

In Europe, including the UK, we have a temperate climate. This means we have mostly mild weather - without weather extremes - and four main seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter, which usually all have different weather. But even within the UK the weather is often different, depending on where you are.

CHILD: Like when its raining here in Edinburgh, but sunny in London!

MADDIE: Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland and most years the rainfall in Scotland is the highest of all the countries in the UK. The rainfall in England, however, which has London as its capital city, is the lowest of all the countries in the UK. Our weather in the UK can also change a lot.

CHILD: Like sometimes when its sunny, but then it suddenly starts to rain?

MADDIE: Exactly!

Weather forecasters can make predictions about the weather by looking closely at the direction and speed the weather is moving. Of course sometimes even they can get it wrong.

And then there is climate change, which is contributing to changing weather patterns around the world and some dramatic weather events - like bush fires in Australia and flooding right here in the UK. We can all help to slow climate change by making sustainable choices in how we live our lives.

Those look awesome! What are you drawing?

CHILD: We are making posters to remind us to make sustainable choices.

MADDIE: Excellent! What are your ideas?

CHILD: Not wasting water, food, paper or electricity.

CHILD: Walking or cycling for journeys when possible.

CHILD: Taking part in sustainable activities like planting trees.

MADDIE: Those are great ideas!

We can all help to protect the planet and appreciate all the different weather patterns around the world.