

Lesson 4 Climate Change and You

Weather V Climate – Sort the Statements

Read all of the following statements and decide whether they relate to Weather or Climate.

Our school weather station measured 22mm of rainfall yesterday	Ireland has mild temperatures all year because of the Atlantic Ocean	Winters in Ireland are usually wet and cool
We noticed frost on the ground this morning	It is 8°C and cloudy outside right now	Ireland experiences a lot of low-pressure systems in winter
Ireland's average July temperature is around 15–20°C	There is a yellow wind warning for the west coast today	The west coast gets more rainfall annually than the east
The prevailing winds in Ireland usually come from the southwest	It was unusually warm in Dublin this afternoon	Temperatures in Ireland have risen by about 1°C over the past century
Over the last 30 years, Ireland has experienced more frequent heavy rainfall events	Last week our school's weather station recorded higher temperatures than the October average	A thunderstorm is expected in Munster tonight
Our weather station predicted heavy rain for tomorrow, but it didn't happen	Storms like Storm Barra seem to be happening more often in recent years	Southeasterly winds brought unusually dry conditions to Ireland today

Real time weather statements

Look at information from your school's weather station and come up with your own weather statements for that week.

Examples:

- Today 3mm of rain fell
- The wind direction today was mostly from the southwest

Linking Weather and Climate

Use the story map or a report that your teacher gives you to look at the average temperatures in Ireland over a thirty year period. This represents climate data. Compare averages that your weather station has gathered for this month or this year to the averages provided by Met Éireann.

Story map available here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/93cbad5530054f58a6246a44920aa3f3>

Some questions that you might answer as part of your investigation:

- How does your station's average temperature/rainfall amounts/wind direction compare to the long-term Met Éireann average?
- Is your local area warmer, cooler, or similar to the national climate average?
- Is the rainfall in your area similar to the national climate average?
- Is the wind direction similar to the national climate average?
- What might explain any differences?
(e.g., location, altitude, time of year, weather events)
- These questions can also be looked at from a local average perspective.

Global efforts against Climate Change – Fill in the blanks

Use these words to complete the sentences below:

1.5°C

Emissions

Climate Finance

Climate plans

Global warming

Leaders

Global

Developed countries

Adapt

1. The Kyoto Protocol asked _____ to cut their greenhouse gas emissions first.
2. The Paris Agreement aims to keep _____ as low as possible.
3. Countries must update their _____ every few years in the Paris Agreement.
4. International agreements try to reduce _____ in order to limit climate change.
5. The Paris Agreement encourages nations to try to stay below _____ of warming.
6. The Paris Agreement is a _____ effort involving almost every country.
7. At COP (Conference of Parties) Meetings, world _____ meet to discuss climate issues.
8. The Paris agreement encourages countries to _____ to the impacts of climate change.
9. One key topic at COP is _____, which supports poorer countries.

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Extension Activities

Activity One: Linked to Policy

Write 4–6 sentences on one of the following options:

Option A:

Which agreement, Kyoto or Paris, do you think is more effective?
Give two reasons.

Option B:

If you attended COP as a youth representative from Ireland, what climate action would you push for and why?

Option C:

Explain how renewable energy (like wind or solar) helps countries meet their Paris Agreement goals.

Activity Two: Linked to Weather

Use available weather data from your school weather station to graph the following data gathered over a week:

- Wind Speed
- Rainfall
- Temperature
- Atmospheric Pressure

Use the graph to create an infographic about the weather in your local area.