

LKS2 Geography Knowledge Organiser: Climate and Weather – Why is Climate Important?

3 BIG IDEAS

Location

- I can locate some of the world's climate zones on a world map.
- I can use a key to identify different biomes on a world map.
- I can identify tropical and polar climate zones on a world map.

Diversity

- I can collect and compare information on weather patterns in specific locations.
- I can compare features of different biomes around the world using geographical vocabulary.
- I can compare the features of different climate zones.

Environment

- I can describe the characteristics of tropical, temperate and polar climate zones.
- I can identify issues affecting climate zones.
- I can identify the impact of issues affecting climate zones on weather patterns.

What is the difference between Weather and Climate?

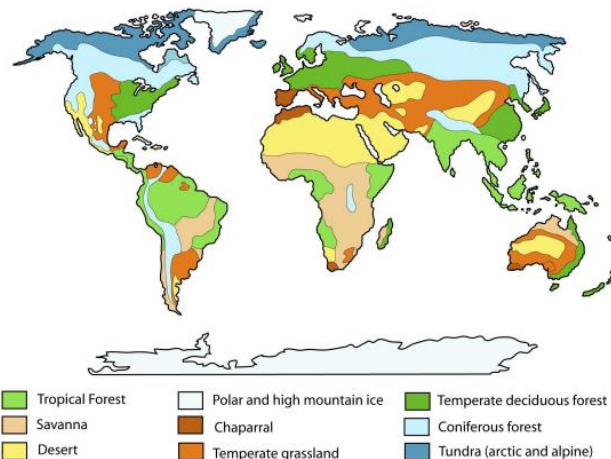
WEATHER

- Weather is short term.
- It is what happens in our atmosphere from day to day.
- It includes precipitation, temperature, wind and humidity.
- Weather varies from place to place, from day to day and from season to season.
- The range of weather in a place is a characteristic of its climate.

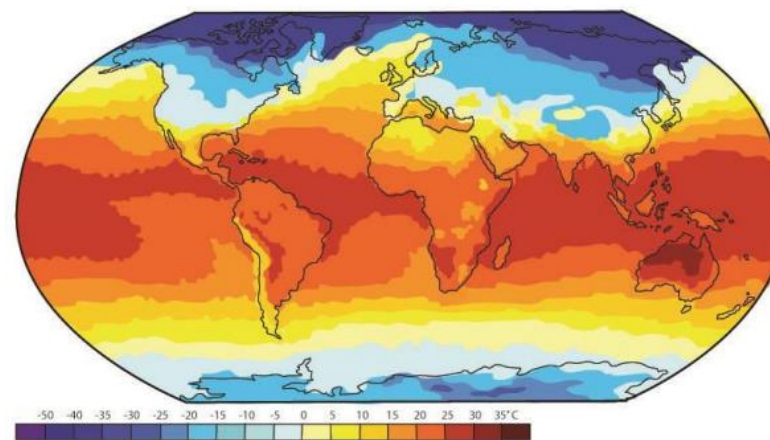
CLIMATE

- Climate is long term.
- It refers to the average weather pattern of a place over many years.
- Climates can be mainly: hot, cold, wet or dry, hot and wet, hot and dry, etc.
- The climate of a place affects the soil, flora and fauna of that place, and impacts on human activity.

World Climate Zones



Map of Annual Average Air Temperatures



What is a Biome?

- Biomes are defined by the climate, soil, organisms, flora and fauna of a large geographical area.
- Each biome consists of many ecosystems whose communities have adapted to the small differences in climate and the environment inside the biome.

Biome	Typical Climate	Image	Example Location
Tundra	Very cold and dry all year round		Arctic
Desert	Dry and hot all year round		North Africa
Temperate	Cool winters and mild summers		Europe (including the UK)
Rainforest	Hot, humid and wet all year round		South America

VOCABULARY

Rainfall - All precipitation (all the water that falls on an area, including rain, snow, sleet, hail, dew, and frost).

Temperature - The degree of heat or cold of an object or an environment.

Climate zones - Regions with similar long-term patterns of weather.

Biomes - Areas of the planet with a similar climate and landscape, where similar animals and plants live.

Vegetation belts - The plant life as a whole within a certain area.

Hottest – Having a relatively high temperature.

Colest – Having a relatively low temperature.

Wettest - Covered or soaked with a liquid, such as water.

Driest – Superlative of dry.

Atmosphere - The layer of gas that surrounds Earth.

Deserts - Areas in which there is a shortage of moisture available for plants.

Wetlands - Areas where the land does not drain well, often the ground is covered with shallow water.

Grasslands - Large areas covered with grasses.

Flora - Plants generally, or all the plants that grow in a particular place.

Fauna - Animals generally, or all the animals that live in a particular place.

Ecosystem - A community of living things interact with each other and their environment.

Latitude – The distance north or south of the equator.

Tropic of Cancer - An imaginary latitude line above the equator that runs across the globe at about 23 degrees north.

Tropic of Capricorn - An imaginary line of **latitude** going around the Earth at approximately 23.5° south of the equator.

Equator - An imaginary line that is drawn around the middle of the Earth to divide it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.