Weather and Climate

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Weather = what it's like outside **now**. **Climate** = the **usual** weather over **many years**.

Memory trick: weather is your outfit today; climate is your whole closet.

Weather or Climate?



People often mix up **weather** and **climate**, but they are different.

Weather is what the air outside is like right now or over a few days. Is it sunny or rainy? Hot or cold? Windy or calm? Weather can change quickly, sometimes in a few hours.

Climate is the usual weather in a place over many years. The Arctic has a cold climate. A rainforest has a hot, wet climate. Most of southern Canada has four seasons, with cold winters and warm summers.

Here is an easy way to remember: weather tells you what to wear **today**. Climate tells you what kinds of clothes to keep in your closet.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is weather?

(a) What the air is like now (b) The usual weather over many years
(c) A kind of map

2. What is climate?

(a) Today's temperature (b) Usual weather over many years (c) A rainstorm

3. Which can change in just a few hours?

(a) Climate (b) Weather (c) Both stay the same.

4. What kind of climate does the Arctic have?

(a) Hot and wet (b) Warm and sunny (c) Cold

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2. Weather or climate?

Circle weather or climate.

1	It is raining right now.	weather	climate
2	Deserts are dry most of the year.	weather	climate
3	Tomorrow will be windy.	weather	climate
4	Our town has cold, snowy winters every year.	weather	climate
5	There was a thunderstorm last night.	weather	climate
6	The rainforest is hot and wet all year.	weather	climate

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **Describe today's weather and your town's climate.**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What is weather?

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2. Weather or climate?

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6	The rainforest is hot and wet all year.	weather	**climate**

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **Describe today's weather and your town's climate.**
   Today it is cloudy and cool. Our town's climate has cold winters and warm summers.