

WEATHER PATTERNS

Weather is the state of the atmosphere, describing for example the degree to which it is hot or cold, wet or dry, calm or stormy, clear or cloudy.

Weather is driven by air pressure, temperature and moisture differences between one place and another. These differences can occur due to the sun's angle at any particular spot.



WHAT IS A WEATHER PATTERN?

One of the first things many people do when they wake up in the morning is check the weather. The weather pattern where you live will help you and your parents decide what you should wear or bring to school that day! A weather pattern occurs when the weather stays the same for days or weeks at a time.

The patterns of weather are tied to the four seasons: summer, winter, spring, and autumn.

WEATHER PATTERNS ARE DESCRIBED BY THE FIVE MAIN COMPONENTS:

- Temperature: *How hot or cold the air is.*
- Humidity: *The amount of water vapour in the air, the higher the humidity, the warmer we feel.*
- Air pressure: *High pressure air is associated with sinking air (air falling from the sky to earth), this is generally responsible for warmer temperatures, and low pressure is associated with rising air (air rising from earth to the sky) which generally causes cooler temperatures.*
- Wind: *Measured in speed and direction. Wind coming to you over the ocean is going to be colder than wind coming from a desert.*
- Precipitation: *The amount of water falling due to gravity, this can be rain, snow, hail, etc.*

HOT AND DRY WEATHER

During summer, the weather pattern is commonly hot and dry. In the summer, temperatures are usually very high. If you go outside with your ice cream on a hot summer day, it may melt! During this pattern of weather, people try to stay cool by using the air conditioning or going for a swim.



COLD WEATHER

During winter, the weather pattern is cold. Temperatures are usually the lowest they will be all year. This weather pattern means there might be snow coming in some areas because of the low temperatures. When the weather pattern is cold, people wear hats, sweaters, jackets, and mittens to keep warm.

RAINY WEATHER

A rainy weather pattern happens mostly during the spring. Rainy weather can be helpful to the environment because it provides water for plants to grow and for animals to drink. Farmers also need rain water so their crops do not dry out and die.

