



Storm coming!

Extreme weather, reducing global heating, news
and media

Classroom presentation



Task 1: Discuss the questions.

1. What's your favourite season? Why?
2. Do you have many extreme weather events in your country? What season do they occur in?
3. Has there been any unexpected weather in the last few months? Do you think weather patterns are changing in your country? If so, why do you think this is?
4. Which of these are common problems in your country or region?

blizzards flooding forest fires heatwaves hurricanes/cyclones/typhoons¹
drought smog tornadoes tidal surges



Task 2: Match extracts from news reports to one of the words in Task 1. Where in the world might these events be happening?

With temperatures exceeding 40 degrees in parts of the country, the chance of more rain is still a long way off. If the monsoon fails again, it could destroy harvests which millions of people in _____ rely on.

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Answer: Drought – many parts of the world are affected, e.g. India, Africa.

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Answer: Flooding – many parts of the world are affected, e.g. Europe, Latin America, Bangladesh.

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Firefighters are struggling to get the flames under control. Smoke is making the job harder, but if the winds change direction, it could spread to villages in the _____ region.

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Answer: Forest fires – many parts of the world are affected, e.g. Australia, China, the US.

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Conditions in _____ mean that many roads in the area are blocked, with more heavy snowfall expected tonight. Police are advising drivers to avoid travel if at all possible.

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Answer: Blizzards, e.g. Canada, Northern Europe and Russia, Japan, etc.

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_____ is experiencing some of the worst air pollution of the year this weekend. Levels of PM2.5 particles, the tiny particles in the air that can harm the lungs, are at 24 times the recommended limit, meaning that just going outside is hazardous.

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Answer: Smog, e.g. cities in China, Iran

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At least two people were killed when it touched down in the centre of _____ last night. It caused a great deal of damage, destroying several buildings in its path.

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Answer: Tornadoes, e.g. the US or Canada

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Poor ocean conditions caused flooding in the port of _____ yesterday, affecting dozens of families, who had to evacuate. The threat from flooding due to rising sea levels is becoming increasingly serious and the need for more effective defences more urgent.

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Answer: Tidal surges, e.g. Pacific Islands, Caribbean

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Task 3: Vocabulary search

- a. bad weather (at sea)
- b. danger
- c. dangerous
- d. destroyed a lot of property
- e. being more than
- f. impossible to use because something is in the way
- g. leave your home
- h. lots of rain/snow

- 1 With temperatures **exceeding** 40 degrees in parts of the country, the chance of more rain is still a long way off. If the **monsoon** fails again, it could **destroy harvests** which millions of people in _____ rely on.
- 2 Towns along the River _____ have been **coping with** flooded streets and houses after unusually **heavy rains** caused the river to burst its banks. **Residents are being advised** to take food and other **essential items** upstairs or to higher ground.
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- 6 At least two people were killed when it touched down in the centre of _____ last night. It **caused a great deal of damage**, destroying several buildings in its path.
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Task 4: Listen to three news reports and answer the questions about each report. What do all the events have in common?

- 1 What is the weather event?
- 2 Where in the world is it?
- 3 When does it happen?



 **Task 5: Listen to the reports again. Which of the weather events**

...

- a. is not immediately dangerous to people?
- b. is affecting poor people worse?
- c. is damaging the economy?
- d. is good news to some people?
- e. is more common in other parts of the country?
- f. means that next time it is likely to be even worse?



Task 6: Discuss the questions in pairs.

Which of the three news reports is the most worrying, in your opinion?
Why?

What can be done now to reduce the chances that the climate will become more extreme in the future? By ordinary people? By governments?



Task 7: An extreme weather event is threatening to hit your region. You will work in groups to plan communications about the event to the public. Follow the steps.

- Choose a weather event that could affect your region in the future.
- Your teacher will give you one of these roles: police officer, local politician, emergency service planner. Plan what you need to do to prepare the region for the event and to keep everyone safe. If it's possible, search online for ideas.
- Your teacher will put you into a new group: an Emergency Planning Committee. Decide important messages you should give the public and the advice they need to stay safe.
- Write a series of social media messages to communicate to the public.



Audioscript 1

Farmers in Eastern India are feeling the effects of another bad monsoon this month. Overall, June was 19 per cent down on average rainfall and July looks as if it's going to continue affecting the east and central provinces of the country. Although not likely to reach the devastating conditions of 2032, a poor harvest is expected, and the Indian economy is likely to be affected.

In 2032, almost half of India, home to more than 500 million people, experienced drought-like conditions, and the accompanying heatwave killed many people in the eastern state of Bihar. Many more vulnerable families are being forced to leave their lands and take shelter in relief camps.

Since the 2020s, which were much drier than normal, there has been on average five per cent more rain on average in India than before 2020. The rain is falling at unusual times of year, causing damage to crops. But this year, it looks likely that we are returning to the other extreme: drought conditions.



Audioscript 2

Areas of eastern Siberia are experiencing unusually high temperatures, leading to wildfires across the region. While it isn't uncommon for these areas of tundra to burn in summer, scientists say there is reason to be worried. Marianna Vinogradov, professor in environmental geography at the Moscow School of Economics, said that the size of the fires has not been seen since 2027.

The fires are further north than usual, and the explanation, unsurprisingly, is human-caused global heating. The Arctic region is experiencing rising temperatures at more than twice the speed than the rest of the planet.

The good news is that these fires are a long way from towns or villages. What is not so good is that they will only make the situation worse in future years. It seems the fires are burning through 'peat', which is soil that keeps the carbon locked in the ground. When they burn, carbon stores emit greenhouse gases, which further exacerbate global warming, leading to more fires.



Audioscript 3

The Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia is under several centimetres of snow this morning as the region south of Mecca experiences snow for the second time this winter. Families were out enjoying the cold snap. One group of children decided that a snowman was boring and built a snow camel instead.

It's not all fun, though. The local traffic police are warning drivers to be especially careful in the snowy conditions.

Although snow has always been a regular feature of the northern mountain regions, the first record of snow in this part of the country wasn't until 2021. Since then, despite hotter summers in recent years, Saudis have enjoyed regular snowfall in winter in many parts of the country. As with most other parts of the world, weather is becoming more extreme and less predictable because of human carbon emissions.



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Thank you



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