



Storm coming!

Extreme weather, reducing global heating, news and media

Classroom presentation



1. Work in pairs. Take turns to answer the question in as many different ways as possible. Your answers don't have to be true.

What's the weather like?

e.g. *It's hot.* / *It's snowing.* / etc.



2. Discuss the questions in pairs.

- What's your favourite season? Why?
- Do you have many extreme weather events in your country? What season do they occur in?
- 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?
- Which of these are common problems in your country or region? Use a dictionary to help you.

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



3. Match each extract from a news report to one of the words in Exercise 2. Where in the world might these extracts be from?

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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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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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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4. 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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5. 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?**



 6. 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?



7. 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?



8. **Work in groups. You are the Emergency Planning Committee of your town or region: police officers, politicians and emergency service planners. An extreme weather event is threatening to hit your region. Your job is to prepare the region for the event and keep everyone safe. Follow the steps.**

- Choose a weather event that could affect your region in the future.
- Decide what measures you will take to save lives and protect property. Search online for ideas, e.g. 'how to survive a ...'.
- Decide the message you will give the public and the advice they need to stay safe.
- Write a series of tweets to communicate your message to the public.



Storm coming!

Thank you



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