

Weather and Climate Zones

What is weather?

Weather is a description of what the conditions are like in a particular place. For example, it could be:

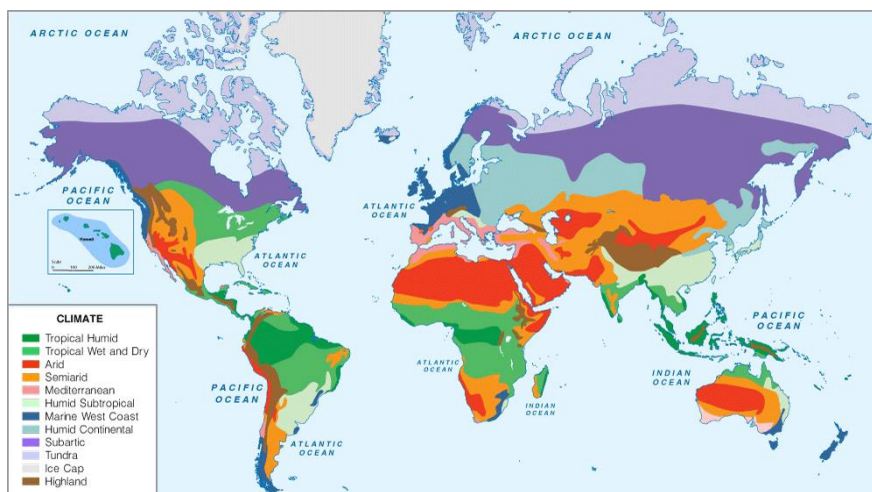
- hot or cold
- wet or dry
- windy or calm
- stormy, with thunder and lightning

What is climate?

Climate is a description of the average weather conditions in a certain place for the past 30 or so years.

Different areas of the world have different climates. Climate is influenced by lots of different things, including:

- how near or far it is from the Equator
- how near or far it is from the sea
- how high or low the ground is
- its position on a continent



How many climate zones are there and how do they differ?

1. Tropical

Around the Equator we have tropical climates which are hot and humid, this is where you'll find the world's rainforests.

2. Arid

Then there are arid or dry climates - like you'd find in deserts.

3. Mediterranean

Next is Mediterranean with hot dry summers, and cooler wetter winters.

4. Temperate

Then there are temperate climates. That's what we have in the UK, where summers are mild and winters aren't too cold.

5. Continental

In areas that are a very long way from the sea, the climate is continental with long, cold winters and short, hot summers.

6. Polar

Finally, there's polar climates which experience long periods of extreme cold.