



AU1.1 Activity Breakdown

Climate or Weather

Provide lesson narrative and examples to be used. Feel free to add or create new sorting images/statements.

Part 1: Introduction (5 minutes)

- Begin by explaining the difference between weather and climate in simple terms.

Along the lines of...

- In simple words, weather is what's happening today or tomorrow, and climate is what the weather is usually like over many years. It's like looking at the small picture (weather) and the big picture (climate) of the sky and temperature outside.
- Weather is the short-term conditions of the atmosphere (like rain or sunshine), while climate is the long-term average of weather patterns (stress the idea of patterns – that in a stable climate, trends tend to repeat and are predictable over the long term).

Part 2: Picture Sorting (10 minutes)

- Provide the students with a set of pictures depicting different weather and climate-related scenes from the Cayman Islands.
- Have the students work individually or in small groups to sort these pictures into categories: 'climate', 'weather', or 'both'.
- See provided picture sheet:
 - Print & cut out for sorting.

(Example pictures)

Weather:

1. Sunny day with clear blue skies.
2. Rainy day with dark clouds and raindrops falling.
3. Thunderstorms with lightning and dark, stormy clouds.
4. Windy day with palm trees swaying and waves crashing on the shore.
5. Cloudy sky with a mix of white and grey clouds.

Climate:

1. An image showing the average temperature in the Caribbean over a year, with warmer temperatures during most months.
2. Chart depicting the average rainfall in the Caribbean over different months, showing rainy and drier seasons.



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3. A photo of a beach over multiple years, showing the consistent presence of palm trees, sand, and water.
4. A series of images showcasing seasonal changes, like people wearing lighter clothes in summer and warmer clothes in winter.
5. A map highlighting the Caribbean region and indicating the general climate patterns, like warm temperatures and tropical storms.

Both:

1. A hurricane forming over warm Caribbean waters, representing a weather event influenced by the climate.
2. Before-and-after photos of beach erosion due to storms (weather) over time (climate).
3. People enjoying the beach on sunny days (weather) during the consistently warm Caribbean climate (climate).
4. A graph showing the increase in hurricane frequency during certain months, influenced by the Caribbean's climate.
5. Pictures of local plants that thrive in the Caribbean's warm and wet climate.
6. A picture of a dried-up mangrove swamp.
7. A picture of coral bleaching in the Caribbean due to warmer ocean temperatures (climate) leading to changes in daily temperature and precipitation (weather).

Part 3: Statement Sorting (10 minutes)

- Provide statements about the Cayman Islands' weather and climate on cards.
- Ask the students to read each statement and determine whether it relates to 'climate', 'weather', or 'both', then place them in the correct category.
- See provided statement sheet:
 - Print & cut out for sorting.

(Example statements)

Weather:

- Today, it's really sunny and hot in the Caribbean.
- We need our umbrellas because it's raining a lot right now.
- After the rain, we saw a colourful rainbow in the sky.
- The wind is strong, and the waves at the beach are big today.
- I brought my jacket because it's a little chilly outside.

Climate:

- In the Caribbean, most months are warm and sunny, even during winter.
- Over many years, the Caribbean usually has a tropical climate with lots of sun and warmth.
- The Caribbean has a rainy season when it gets a lot of rain, and a dry season when it's not as wet.
- The map shows that the whole Caribbean region has a warm and tropical climate.



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- The Caribbean's climate helps plants grow, making the islands lush and green.

Both:

- During hurricane season, people in the Caribbean prepare for big storms that can come.
- Sometimes, the weather can change quickly from sunny to rainy, even in the warm climate.
- All year round, the Caribbean stays warm and tropical, thanks to its special climate.
- Look at these plants! They love the Caribbean's warm weather and grow really well.
- Imagine a graph that shows how some days are hot and sunny, while the Caribbean's climate stays warm and tropical overall.

Part 4: Discussion and Review (10 minutes)

- Once students have completed the sorting, lead a class discussion.
- Review each category, discussing why certain pictures and statements belong to each group.
- Emphasise that 'weather' can change quickly, while 'climate' is more about long-term patterns.

Part 5: Group Activity - Creating Weather and Climate Posters (10 minutes)

- Divide the class into small groups.
- Assign each group a weather or climate trait (e.g., hurricanes, sunny days, average rainfall, etc.).
- Provide coloured pens and pencils and ask each group to create a poster illustrating their assigned trait and explaining whether it's related to weather, climate, or both.

Part 6: 'Gallery Walk' (5 minutes)

- Have the children walk around the room silently, looking at all the posters that have been made.
- Ask them to identify some posters or elements of posters that they like or that they think are effective.

Part 7: Conclusion (5 minutes)

- Summarise the activity by reiterating the differences between weather and climate.
- Highlight the importance of understanding both concepts for predicting short-term conditions and preparing for long-term changes.