



Geography – Climate

What is a climate?

The weather changes in different parts of the world. Where there are similar weather patterns this is known as a climate.

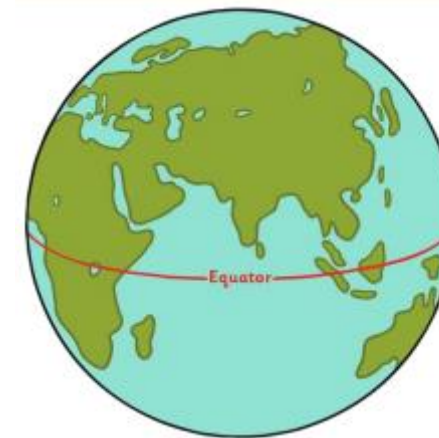
At the top of the Earth there is an arctic climate and some of the coldest temperatures in the world are found here.

Temperate climates are found a bit further south, and as you approach the equator you find Mediterranean and desert climates. Some of the hottest places on Earth are found here, and few people live in this climate.

At the equator there is a tropical climate and travelling south of the equator it gets cooler again before reaching the Antarctic.

Key Vocabulary

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| Temperate | A climate with a mild, cool temperature, such as the UK |
| Equator | An imaginary circle around the centre of the Earth. The climate is hot all year round near the equator. |
| Continent | A large, solid area of land |
| Tropical | A climate that is humid and has a hot temperature, such as the rainforest. |
| Polar zone | Areas at the north (top) and south (bottom) of the Earth. The temperature is extremely cold. |
| Desert | Dry areas that receive very little rain |
| Terranea | A large, barren (empty) region with no trees. |



The equator is an imaginary line that divides the Earth in half. The equator is an equal distance between the North and South Poles. At the equator, day and night are both 12 hours long. The time it takes for the sun to set and rise at the Equator is the fastest on Earth. The change from day to night takes only a few minutes.