

Sky Now, Patterns Later

Use time scale to tell weather from climate.

SC.6.E.7.6 "Differentiate between weather and climate."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that describe conditions over a short time, and circle details that describe usual patterns over many years.

A Rainy School Day

- ① On a Thursday morning, students at Riverbend Middle School stepped outside for science class. Dark clouds covered the sky, and a cool wind bent the grass. By lunch, rain tapped on the windows, so the class moved its field test indoors. These conditions described what the air was like over a short time in one place. They could change before the final bell, or even within an hour. A thermometer reading, cloud cover, wind, and rainfall are all clues people use when describing such daily conditions.
- ② Riverbend is in a region where summers are usually hot and humid. Winters are often mild, but some nights fall below freezing. Scientists learn these long-term patterns by collecting weather records for many years. They compare typical temperatures, rainfall, and seasons, not one surprising storm. A week of snow would be weather. It would not, by itself, show that the region has a snowy climate. Climate describes the usual pattern, including how conditions vary across many years.
- ③ Knowing the difference helps people make decisions. A coach checks the weather forecast before an afternoon track meet because lightning or heat may affect that event. A city planner studies climate before choosing plants for a new park. The planner wants plants that can handle the area's usual summer heat and typical rainfall. Weather is a short-term condition, while climate is a long-term pattern. Both involve the atmosphere, but they answer different questions for people in a place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two details from the first paragraph that describe weather at Riverbend Middle School.

2 Why are the conditions on Thursday weather instead of climate?

3 What do scientists study to learn about a region's climate?

4 Why does the coach check weather, while the city planner studies climate?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a town. Write three sentences: a weather forecast for tomorrow, a climate statement based on many years, and an explanation of why each statement is weather or climate.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that describe conditions over a short time, and circle details that describe usual patterns over many years. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two details from the first paragraph that describe weather at Riverbend Middle School.	Any two: dark clouds, a cool wind, rain by lunch, or conditions that could change within an hour.
2	Why are the conditions on Thursday weather instead of climate?	They describe the air in one place over a short time and could change within an hour.
3	What do scientists study to learn about a region's climate?	They collect weather records for many years and compare typical temperatures, rainfall, and seasons.
4	Why does the coach check weather, while the city planner studies climate?	The coach needs conditions for one afternoon track meet. The planner needs long-term patterns to choose plants for the park.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For fictional Lakeview, tomorrow's forecast is cloudy with afternoon rain and a high of 18°C. Over many years, Lakeview usually has warm, rainy summers. The forecast is weather because it describes one day, and the usual summer pattern is climate because it describes many years.

Accept weather examples or forecasts that describe short-term conditions in a specific place. Accept climate statements only when they describe usual patterns over many years, not conditions from a single day or event.