

Sky or Pattern?

Use time clues to tell weather from climate.

4.10.C "differentiate between weather and climate."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about short-term conditions. Circle details about usual patterns over many years so you can tell weather from climate.

A Changing Sky

- ① On a March morning, rain tapped Mia's window, and a cool wind bent the tree branches. By afternoon, the sky cleared, and the air felt warmer. These short-term conditions, such as temperature, wind, clouds, and rain, are called weather. Weather can change from hour to hour or day to day in one place very quickly.
- ② Climate describes the usual weather patterns in a place over many years. Scientists study records from about 30 years to describe a region's climate. A desert climate, for example, is often dry across many years. That does not mean every desert day is dry. A rare rainy day is still weather, not climate by itself.
- ③ In Harbor Town, summers are usually hot, and winters are usually mild and rainy. These repeated seasonal patterns describe the town's climate. If a cold front brings frost one morning, that frost describes weather. People use weather reports to plan for today or tomorrow. They use climate information to learn what conditions are usual over many years.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 A forecast says that Monday will be 82 degrees and rainy. Is this weather or climate? Explain.

- 2 Records show that a place is usually snowy during winter over many years. Is this weather or climate? Explain.

- 3 A student says that climate tells exactly what will happen tomorrow. Is the student correct? Explain using the passage.

- 4 Which statement describes climate: "This morning is foggy" or "This area is usually foggy in fall"? Explain your choice.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Make up a town. Write one weather sentence about today and one climate sentence about what is usual there over many years. Label each sentence Weather or Climate.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about short-term conditions. Circle details about usual patterns over many years so you can tell weather from climate. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A forecast says that Monday will be 82 degrees and rainy. Is this weather or climate? Explain.	Weather. It describes short-term conditions for one day.
2	Records show that a place is usually snowy during winter over many years. Is this weather or climate? Explain.	Climate. It describes a usual seasonal pattern over many years.
3	A student says that climate tells exactly what will happen tomorrow. Is the student correct? Explain using the passage.	No. Climate describes usual patterns over many years, while weather reports describe conditions for today or tomorrow.
4	Which statement describes climate: "This morning is foggy" or "This area is usually foggy in fall"? Explain your choice.	"This area is usually foggy in fall" describes climate because it tells a usual seasonal pattern.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Weather: Today, Pine Bay is windy and rainy. Climate: Over many years, Pine Bay usually has cool, wet springs.

Accept any accurate pair in which the weather sentence gives short-term conditions and the climate sentence gives usual patterns over many years. Labels should match the statements.