

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some factors that determine an area's climate?
- 2 What movement of the Earth influences climate?

Environmental Digest

22

Understanding Climate

Many people think **climate** is simply weather. This is not quite accurate. The weather is a condition at one particular time. A region often experiences a **range** of weather from day to day. The climate is the **average** weather over a long period of time.

Climate **patterns** are shaped by many factors. **Latitudes** near the Equator are typically warmer. Land at lower **elevations** also tends to be warmer. However, other factors create exceptions. The Earth's **rotation** produces global **prevailing winds**. These carry moisture from wet to dry areas. Similarly, **currents** carry warm ocean water to cooler regions. An area's **terrain** also affects how much wind and moisture it receives.

Reading

2 Read the article. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the article?
 - A a description of a particular region's climate
 - B which factors determine climate
 - C how human activities affect climate
 - D the difference between terrain and climate
- 2 Which of the following climate factors is NOT included in the article?

A land elevation	C human activity
B Earth's rotation	D ocean currents
- 3 According to the article, what factor increases moisture in dry areas?

A latitude	C prevailing winds
B elevation	D currents

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 __ range | 4 __ terrain |
| 2 __ current | 5 __ average |
| 3 __ climate | 6 __ latitude |

- A the characteristics of an area of land
- B having typical qualities
- C a set of things with different values
- D a long-term set of weather conditions
- E the movement of water in a particular direction
- F a measurement of distance from the Equator

4 Read the sentences and choose the correct words.

- 1 Land at a higher **latitude** / **elevation** is farther above the sea.
- 2 A **climate** / **prevailing wind** carried warm air to the southern islands.
- 3 Heavy rain is consistent with the region's typical **pattern** / **current**.
- 4 The Earth's **terrain** / **rotation** is responsible for major surface winds.

5 Listen and read the article again. What can make a region warm if it is far from the Equator?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between two scientists. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ The man is familiar with the island's climate.
- 2 ___ The ocean current near the island is cold.
- 3 ___ A low elevation keeps the island warmer.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Scientist 1: My research team is going to Castor Island. I don't know much about the climate.

Scientist 2: I was there last year. It gets a 1 _____.

Scientist 1: I figured it would. It's probably 2 _____, too.

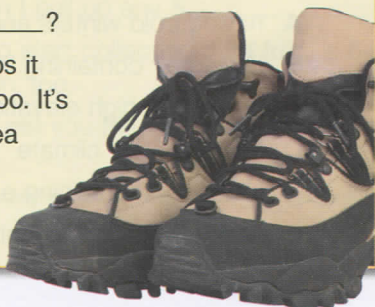
Scientist 2: No, actually. It usually has 3 _____ temperatures.

Scientist 1: Really? That's surprising. The 4 _____ is so far north.

Scientist 2: That's true. But it's right in the path of a warm 5 _____.

Scientist 1: Oh, I see. What about the 6 _____?

Scientist 2: That keeps it warmer, too. It's right at sea level.



Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

I don't know much about ...

It usually has ...

What about the ...?

Student A: You are a scientist. Talk to Student B about:

- a region you will travel to
- the climate of the region
- factors affecting the climate

Student B: You are a scientist. Talk to Student A about the climate of a particular region.

Writing

9 Use the article and the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the memo to the research team.



memo

Attention Team,

We are traveling to _____. The climate there is _____ because

Please bring appropriate clothing and supplies.