

Life in the Zone

Rangers in the Classroom—Pre-visit Lesson Plan



Grade Level: 5th

Setting: Classroom

Duration: 45 min —1 hour

Standards Addressed:

- ° Science—Earth Science:
4c, 4d
- ° Visual and Performing
Arts:
1.3

Introduction:

Welcome to Rangers in the Classroom! We are looking forward to visiting your class for our Life in the Zone program about the life zones within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. To help prepare your class for the ranger visit, we have created a pre-visit activity to introduce your students to some of the concepts we will cover in our program. If you are interested in additional preparation, the program outline includes a vocabulary list and can easily be found on the website at:

<http://www.nps.gov/seki/forteachers/index.htm>.

By exploring a few concepts and vocabulary words with your students prior to our visit, you will help us hit the ground running.

Have fun and we'll see you soon!

Materials:

- ° "What's the Difference? Weather v. Climate" worksheet
- ° Illustrations of different weather and climatic conditions
- ° Poster paper
- ° Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- ° Pictures of different types of landscapes (If available, find on the computer and display with projector.)

Instructions:

1. Pass out "What's the Difference?" worksheet to each student.
2. Have the students read the worksheet individually or together as a class.
3. Discuss with the entire class the differences between weather and climate.
4. Have the students draw pictures to illustrate the difference between weather and climate.
5. Each picture should consist of a scene with two different weather conditions and two different climatic conditions.
6. For example, a student could illustrate weather by drawing the school during a rainstorm and during a sunny day. A student could illustrate climate by drawing the foothills in the summer (brown and dry, sunny) and the foothills in the winter/spring (green, lush, flowers, possibly rain).

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What's the Difference?



Weather vs. Climate

Weather

Weather is a word used to describe what is happening outside at a specific time and place. For example, if you looked outside and saw that it was raining, you could say that there is rainy weather. Weather can change very quickly. There may be foggy and cold weather in the morning, and sunny, warm and clear weather by the afternoon. Weather includes information about daily changes in temperature, precipitation, and wind. Weather describes the temperature, precipitation and wind conditions over a short period of time (days, weeks, months).

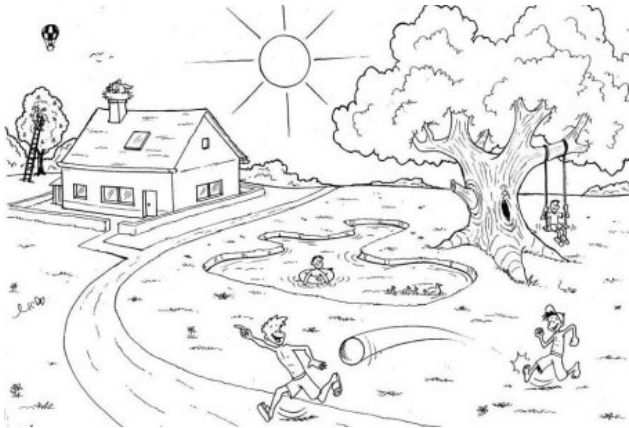
Climate

Climate is a term used to describe what is happening outside over a long period of time. Climate can describe the average weather for an area or the average weather for a certain season. Climate describes what the weather is usually like in an area. For example, the climate in the Central Valley is warm and dry. The climate in Seattle is mild with lots of rain. The climate in Buffalo, NY is cold and snowy. Climate describes the temperature, precipitation, and wind conditions over a long period of time (10 years, 100 years, 1000 years).

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Sample pictures: Weather vs. Climate



Weather Change



Climate Change