

# Geography

## Climate zones

- 1** Look at the map and read about the five general climate zones. In which countries do you think you might find alpine zones and arid zones?

### Our world has five general climate zones:

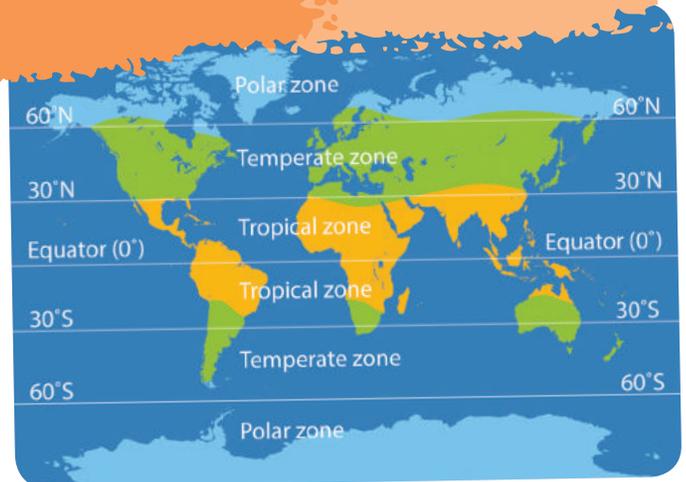
**Polar zones** are located near the Earth's north and south poles. Winters are typically very cold in polar zones, and summers are usually quite cool.

**Temperate zones** are located between polar and tropical zones. They usually have cold winters, warm summers, and mild weather in spring and autumn.

**Tropical zones** are near the Earth's equator. Average temperatures are high all year round in these areas. There may be rainy and dry seasons.

**Alpine zones** are found at high altitudes all over the world. They are similar to polar zones because they experience very cold winters and cool summers.

**Arid zones** receive very little annual precipitation (rainfall). These dry, desert areas can be found in many places around the world, in both hot and cold regions.



- 2** Match the descriptions to the general climate zones in the box.

alpine    arid    polar    temperate    tropical

- The weather is warm all year and quite wet. .... climate zone
- Summers are quite cool and winters are very cold. .... and .... climate zones
- Temperatures may vary but precipitation is very low. .... climate zone
- There are four seasons with varying types of weather. .... climate zone

- 3** Read the three climate descriptions and match them to the photos.

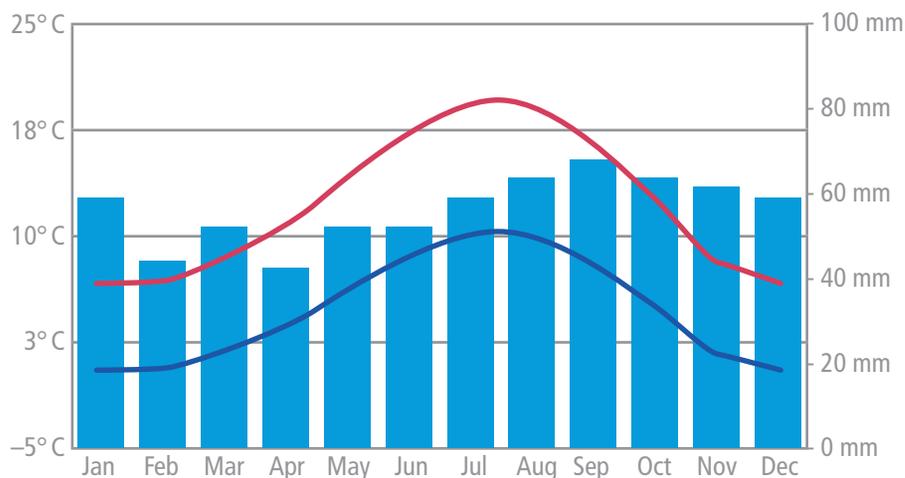
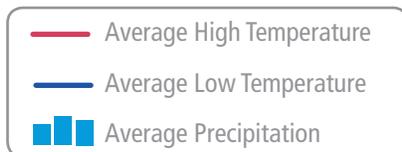
<b>1 Tivoli, Italy</b>	Located in the northern temperate zone, Tivoli has a typical Mediterranean climate. Summers are hot and dry, while winters are mild and fairly wet. The hottest month is August, when temperatures often reach 30°C. The coldest month is January, with an average low of 3.1°C. The vegetation around Tivoli is light forest and bushes, and the climate is excellent for growing crops such as grapes, olives and tomatoes. Tivoli's pleasant climate and rich cultural history make it a popular tourist destination all year long.
<b>Average annual temperatures</b> • low: 9.6°C • high: 20.5°C	
<b>Precipitation</b> 804 mm / year	
<b>2 Nuuk, Greenland</b>	Nuuk is the capital city of Greenland. Located on the country's southwest coast, the city has a polar tundra climate. In winter, the weather is very cold and snowy, and the days are also very short. The coldest months are February and March, when the average low is -10.7°C. In summer, the days get longer but the weather stays cool, with an average high of only 9.9°C. There is not much native vegetation around Nuuk, except low grass and bushes. Agriculture is also very limited, and the local economy depends mostly on fishing, mining for metals, and ocean transport.
<b>Average annual temperatures</b> • low: -3.9°C • high: 1.4°C	
<b>Precipitation</b> 774 mm / year	
<b>3 Belém, Brazil</b>	Belém is on the northern coast of Brazil, at the mouth of the Amazon River. This area has a tropical rainforest climate, with hot, humid weather all year, and an average temperature of 26°C. There is plenty of precipitation all year long, but the weather is especially wet between December and May, when it rains almost every day. Because of the high rainfall, local vegetation is thick and fast-growing. In the past, Belém's economy depended mostly on forestry and agriculture, but tourism has now become an important industry, as millions of tourists come to explore the rainforest every year.
<b>Average annual temperatures</b> • low: 22°C • high: 31.5°C	
<b>Precipitation</b> 2,983 mm / year	



**4 Read the climate descriptions in exercise 3 again, then discuss the questions.**

- 1 Which city has the coldest winters? How could this affect the local economy?
- 2 Which city experiences hot, dry summers? How does this affect agriculture?
- 3 Which city receives the most precipitation? How does this affect vegetation?
- 4 In which city from the text would you prefer to live? Explain your reasons.
- 5 Compare your town or city to those in the text. How is it similar or different?

**5 Study the climate for Edinburgh, Scotland. Then complete the sentences with the words in the box.**



April   February   drier   higher   July   lower   September   wetter

- 1 ..... is the warmest month of the year.
- 2 ..... is the wettest month of the year.
- 3 January and ..... are the coldest months.
- 4 February and ..... are the driest months.
- 5 Temperatures are ..... in October than in March.
- 6 The weather is ..... in August than in June.
- 7 Temperatures are ..... in November than in April.
- 8 The weather is ..... in June than in October.

**6 1.15 Listen to a geography report about Edinburgh. Then answer the questions.**

- 1 Why does Edinburgh have warmer weather than other cities at the same latitude?
- 2 What is the record for the coldest temperature?
- 3 How many hours of sunshine does Edinburgh get a year?
- 4 When are there two important festivals in Edinburgh?
- 5 When is the weather often foggy in Edinburgh?
- 6 What items should visitors always carry with them?



**Project**

Write a geography report about a city, and make a climate chart like the one in exercise 5. Answer the questions.

- 1 In which general climate zone is the city located?
- 2 What are the average annual temperatures?
- 3 Which months are the warmest and coldest?
- 4 What's the average annual precipitation?
- 5 Which months are the wettest and driest?
- 6 What type of vegetation is typical there?
- 7 How does the climate affect daily life in the city?
- 8 Do you like the climate in this city? Why? / Why not?