

GEOGRAPHY / SCIENCE · Y1–Y6

# Weather & Climate

Knowledge Organiser — Y1–Y6

## Key vocabulary

1

### Weather

The condition of the atmosphere at a specific place and time — short-term.

*Example: It is raining in London today.*

2

### Climate

The average weather conditions of a region over a long period (usually 30 years).

*Example: The UK has a temperate maritime climate.*

3

### Temperature

How hot or cold the air is. Measured in degrees Celsius (°C) using a thermometer.

*Example: UK average summer: 18°C; winter: 5°C*

4

### Precipitation

Any form of water falling from clouds — rain, sleet, snow, hail.

5

### Humidity

The amount of water vapour in the air. High humidity feels sticky and muggy.

6

### Wind speed

How fast air is moving. Measured in km/h or mph. The Beaufort scale (0–12) describes wind force.

*Example: Force 8 = gale; Force 12 = hurricane*



7

**Climate change**

Long-term shift in global temperatures and weather patterns. Since the mid-20th century, mainly caused by human activity releasing greenhouse gases.

## Weather instruments

What each one measures

- Thermometer → temperature (in °C or °F)
- Rain gauge → amount of precipitation (in mm)
- Anemometer → wind speed (in km/h or Beaufort scale)
- Wind vane → wind direction (N, NE, E, etc.)
- Barometer → air pressure (in millibars/hPa) — falling = bad weather coming
- Hygrometer → humidity (% relative humidity)
- Sunshine recorder → hours of sunshine
- UK weather: mostly comes from the WEST — Atlantic Ocean. The prevailing wind is south-westerly.

