



SEASONS IN GALAPAGOS LESSON PLAN

Introduce students to the idea that ocean currents affect the seasons and climate of Galapagos

Resources required: Internet connection, Galapagos Climate Worksheet

1. FIRE STARTER

Students discuss the question 'what is the difference between weather and climate?' Students could look at daily [weather reports](#) for their area for the previous week and a [climate graph](#) for a place near where they live and see how closely they compare. This could be a class discussion or in groups or pairs.'

2. GAINING GROUND

The climate of a place is often illustrated by using climate graphs showing temperature as a line graph and precipitation as columns throughout the year. Students should study the weather forecast for places over the whole of their country over the past week and note the similarities and differences in a table. Students could then look at the climate graphs for those places and look at the changes over the four seasons answering the questions on the [Galapagos Climate Worksheet](#).

Students could then look at the climate graphs of Puerto Ayora and Bellavista on the [worksheet](#) to compare the climate of two places in Britain with the Galapagos by answering the same questions in the [worksheet](#).

They should notice that Galapagos has two seasons, a wet season and a dry season, not four as in Britain. They should also note the difference in the precipitation scale between the graphs.

3. MAKING WAVES

Students watch a video about [why it rains](#). Write down the causes of the three types of rain. On Galapagos there are some areas that are wetter than others all year round. Students should explain why this occurs and what type of rainfall this is.

The Galapagos Islands unusually have a season when there is almost no rainfall in the dry areas and little rainfall in the higher regions. Using the information on the [worksheet](#) and the Discovering Galapagos website and the ocean currents map, students should explain why there is such a dry season and a wetter season.

4. FUTURE FOCUS

Students discuss how changes in the pattern or frequency of rainfall might affect the flora and fauna of the land and marine ecosystems.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

- To understand how ocean currents affect seasons and climate
- To understand the effect of changes in the currents

STUDENTS' OUTCOMES

- To appreciate the difference between weather and climate
- To identify the different weather and climate patterns associated with different seasons