



Weather warriors



Introduction

Overview

This lesson brings together community, collaboration and social action by getting pupils to understand how weather and climate change information can support and benefit their local area. It also includes examples of organisations which work to keep communities safe from the impacts of severe weather.



Time required

60 minutes for all activities (or less if individual tasks are selected)



Materials required

- Weather warriors slides
- Weather warriors film
- Weather warriors scenarios (available on page 6)
- Action plan template (available on page 7)
- Who can help? profiles (available on page 8)
- Met Office Weather Ready poster (available [here](#))
- Pens and paper
- Access to the internet (for online research)

Learning objectives

This lesson will enable pupils to:

- Reflect on how weather and climate change affects us personally and as a community
- Develop risk assessment strategies and skills that help keep people safe
- Understand the diverse range of organisations that make a difference in every community

Curriculum links

- [PSHE and Citizenship/PSE/health and wellbeing/PDMU](#) – solving challenges and making decisions
- [Geography/social studies/the world around us](#) – communicating geographical information
- [Computing/ICT](#) – understanding how information can help make decisions
- [Science/sciences and technology](#) – health and safety
- [Mathematics and numeracy](#) – problem solving

Activity steps



01

Start the lesson by asking pupils to discuss in pairs the weather where they live and to describe the different types, particularly any severe or unusual weather, they have experienced. Play the supporting weather warriors film to give them further inspiration.

Show your class the supporting slide that includes the 'Weather and climate change in the UK' quiz. For each question, take a selection of suggested answers from the class before revealing the answer. You could enhance the competition element by timing the class against the clock to write down each of their answers in pairs.



5 minutes



Groupwork



Slides 2 – 3



Weather warriors film

02

Use the quiz answers on the slides to highlight the impacts of severe weather on different communities around the UK. Explain that with climate change and global warming, we are expecting severe weather events in the UK to become more frequent and severe.

Introduce key vocabulary including risks, mitigation (where we try to remove the risk) and adaptation (where we try to adapt to lessen the negative impacts of the risk). Ask the class to think about these terms using an example from school e.g. taking care with scissors, not running along corridors, looking when they cross the road. Use prompt questions including:



15 minutes



Individual task



Slides 4 – 6

Introduction

- How do they identify something as a risk?
- How do they manage these risks to keep themselves and others safe?
- What changes might they put in place to either mitigate or adapt to the risk?

03

Split the class into small groups. Explain that their challenge is to conduct research and create an action plan that will help a local community prepare for potential future weather events.

Give each group a weather warriors scenario (found on page 6) or if they prefer, pupils can use an example from their own community. Ask pupils to research their type of severe weather event.

Use the prompt questions on the slide to guide their research:

- Which parts of the UK are at risk of this type of weather?
- What are the risks of this type of weather? E.g. How does excessive heat, rain, cold or drought impact communities?
- What can be done to manage these risks? E.g. Extended periods of dry weather could impact water supplies, while excessive flooding can cause water pollution and affect people's ability to travel. How could we deal with these issues?
- Who do weather warnings apply to?
- Why is receiving weather information and warnings important for the safety of communities?
- Who would need to be involved in helping manage and mitigate the risks in the ways you have identified?
- Could climate change have an influence on these events in the future?

Using the action plan template (found on page 7), ask the pupils to use their notes to complete the template. To help groups consider the services they could use to support their action plan, share the who can help? profiles (found on page 8).



15 minutes



Groupwork



Slides 7 – 8



Weather warriors scenarios



Action plan template



Who can help? profiles

Activity steps

For further inspiration, you can also show the Met Office Weather Ready poster (shown [here](#)).

04

Ask each group in turn to present their action plan to the rest of the class. You could invite the headteacher or PTAs to hear the presentations and reward exceptional proposals.

Allow the rest of the class to ask questions if there is sufficient time.



20 minutes



Groupwork

05

Bring the session to a close by asking the class the following questions:

- Why are weather information and warnings important for the safety of communities?
- What can be done to manage and mitigate the risks involved?
- What one thing will you pledge to do in the future to help the local community?



5 minutes



Individual task

Weather warrior scenarios

Heatwave

Following a long period of dry weather, forecasters are now predicting a spell of hot weather. Last time this happened, lots of people were taken to hospital with heat-related illnesses. There was also a hosepipe ban as water levels in reservoirs and rivers were very low while demand for water was very high, affecting local gardeners and some industry. People in your area are keen to make sure they don't have the same problems this time around.

Cold and snow

A cold snap has been forecast for your local area, with large amounts of snow and ice predicted alongside the very low temperatures. There are a number of vulnerable people who may be affected by the cold snap, such as the elderly, the homeless and those who can't afford to pay their heating bills. The people working at the doctor's surgery down the road are worried too, as they know the slippery roads and pavements make accidents more likely.

Flood

It's been raining a lot and river levels are very high. A flood warning has been issued in your local area. People in your community are worried that a flood could cause damage to their homes or businesses, or disrupt their travel plans. A local farm has also expressed concern that the flood waters could pollute their land, and destroy some important wildlife habitats.

Wind storm

Forecasters are predicting very high winds next week, the first named storm of the season. It's the most serious storm your area has seen in quite a while. Lots of people in your community are unsure about whether it will be safe to go out, and they're also worried about possible impacts on their electricity supplies, and the local schools are considering closing on the days when the storm is due to hit.

Action plan template

Location your action plan is for:

Type of severe weather:

Main risks of the severe weather:

Ideas for how to reduce the impact of the severe weather:

Different people in the local community would be affected by the severe weather, how and why:

Timeline which plots what action would need to be taken at which times and the jobs involved in supporting the community:

Who can help?

Flood protection agencies

Experts at the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and NI Direct, alongside other agencies, help to manage the risk of flooding



Coastguard

In stormy conditions and where there is a risk of coastal flooding, the coastguard team work to keep people safe on land and at sea



Emergency medical services

Ambulance and hospital staff work around the clock to treat people ill or injured as a result of severe weather conditions e.g. heatstroke



Fire service

Firefighters support communities in severe weather by helping people stay safe during flooding and help protect homes against floodwater



Police

The police help communicate safety information about severe weather events. They also work to keep roads clear and search for missing persons

