

Climates around the world

What is climate?

The climate of an area is the usual kind of weather it gets over a long period of time. Every place on Earth does not have the same climate. People, plants and animals must live in a way which suits the climate in their part of the world.

Climates around the world

The world can be divided into two hemispheres along an imaginary line called the equator. We call these the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere. The northern hemisphere is the part of the world that lies north of the equator and the southern hemisphere lies south of the equator. When it is Summer in the northern hemisphere, it is Winter in the southern hemisphere and vice versa. This is because during the Summer months, the northern hemisphere faces the sun and is exposed to more direct sunlight. Ireland is in the northern hemisphere. Therefore, when it is Summer in Ireland, it is Winter in Australia.

Polar and Cold Climates

The coldest parts of the world are close to the North and South Poles. For almost the whole year the land is covered with ice and snow e.g The Arctic Circle. There are no trees or grass and only mosses and small rough plants appear during the short chilly Summer.

Dry (Desert) Climates

Deserts have hot dry climates where little or no rain falls. Many countries in Northern Africa have dry (desert) climates e.g. Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. The largest desert in the world is the Sahara in Northern Africa. Nothing of value can grow in the rocky, sandy ground, except where a well or spring gives life to the land around it. This area of fertile soil is called an oasis. While the desert is very hot by day, it gets very cold at night as there is virtually no cloud cover.

Tropical Climates

Countries along the equator mainly have a tropical climate. It is humid - very hot and very wet. Great rainforests grow in this region. Rainforests of the Amazon in South America have over 3,000 kinds of trees, which grow tall and strong. Their branches meet at the top to form a canopy that keeps out the sunlight.

Moderate Climates

A moderate climate is one in which there are no extremes, it is neither too hot nor too cold. Ireland and much of Western Europe e.g. England, France and Spain as well as parts of America, Africa and Asia have a moderate climate.