

5.11 The New Zealand climate

Topic: Weather
Subtopic: Climate
Activity type/skill: Identifying information
Literacy focus: Vocabulary

Objective

- Use new vocabulary in a meaningful context.
- Work with spoken and written texts.

What you need

- Student worksheet (see next page)
- [Audio track 5.11](#)

What to do

1. Look at the first page of the student worksheet and have the students silently read the information report about the New Zealand climate. Then have them read it aloud section by section, using the map to find the regions mentioned.
2. Personalise the information by finding where the students live and identifying the information that applies to that area. For example, Auckland is in northern New Zealand so it must have a subtropical climate, winter must be the wettest time, it must have at least 2,000 hours of sunshine a year and so on.
3. Play track 5.11 (Track 4 for this topic) and have students listen to the spoken text giving similar information.
4. Working in pairs, have students look at the second page of the student worksheet. They must read the sentences in the grid and tick the appropriate boxes to show which text or texts contains the information. Explain that they must read and listen for the information – not the exact words of the statements. Play the track again to help them.
5. Mark as a group, identifying the phrases in each text that give the information.

Answers:

Statement	Reading	Listening
Northern New Zealand has a subtropical climate.	✓	✓
Mountains divide the east and west sides of both islands.	✓	✓
The west coast of the South Island is the wettest area in New Zealand.	✗	✓
In northern New Zealand and the central North Island, there is more rain in winter than in summer.	✗	✓
The coolest month of the year is usually July.	✓	✓
Frosts can happen anywhere in New Zealand.	✓	✗
New Zealand is a sunny country.	✓	✓
The warmest months are usually January and February.	✓	✓
Most of New Zealand has a temperate climate.	✓	✗
Snow rarely falls in coastal areas of the North Island.	✓	✗

Activity eleven



Track 4

The New Zealand climate

New Zealand has a temperate climate. It is not often very cold or very hot, very wet or very dry.

Temperature

The New Zealand climate varies from subtropical in the far north to cool temperatures in the far south. The coldest month is usually July and the warmest months are January and February.

Rainfall

There are mountains dividing both the North and South Islands of New Zealand. On the western side of these mountains it is wetter than on the eastern side. Most areas of New Zealand have between 600 and 1600 mm of rain each year. The rain falls all through the year. In the southern part of New Zealand winter is the driest time. In the north winter is the wettest time.

Snow and frost

Most snow falls in the mountains. It rarely falls in the coastal areas of the North Island or the west of the South Island. The east and south of the South Island usually have some snow in winter. Frosts can happen anywhere in New Zealand. They usually form when there are no clouds in the sky.

Sunshine

New Zealand is a sunny country. Most of New Zealand has at least 2000 hours of sunshine every year.

Climatic regions of New Zealand



Activity eleven

Statement	Reading	Listening
Northern New Zealand has a subtropical climate.		
Mountains divide the east and west sides of both islands.		
The west coast of the South Island is the wettest area in New Zealand.		
In northern New Zealand and the central North Island there is more rain in winter than in summer.		
The coolest month of the year is usually July.		
Frosts can happen anywhere in New Zealand .		
New Zealand is a sunny country.		
The warmest months are usually January and February.		
Most of New Zealand has a temperate climate.		
Snow rarely falls in coastal areas of the North Island.		