The climate is the average weather for a particular region. It is based on weather observations over 30 years. Climates vary considerably around the world and sometimes do not easily fit into precise categories. However, it is possible to make some useful generalisations.

Student task

1. Suggest a climate type for the cities on the world map below:

Map used courtesy of Sesmith (Own work) [Public domain 2007] via Wikimedia Commons
commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:No_colonies_blank_world_map.png

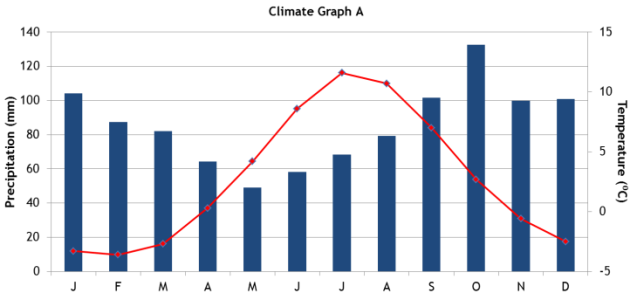
The climate is the average weather for a particular region. It is usually based on weather observations over 30 years. Climates vary considerably around the world and sometimes do not easily fit into precise categories. However, it is possible to make some useful generalisations.

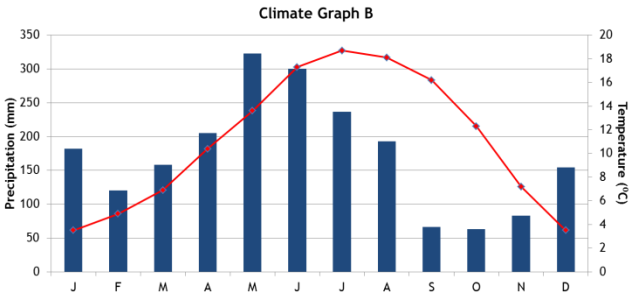
Student task

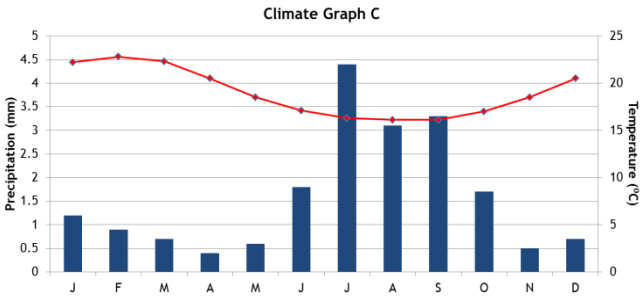
1. Suggest a climate type for the named cities on the world map below:

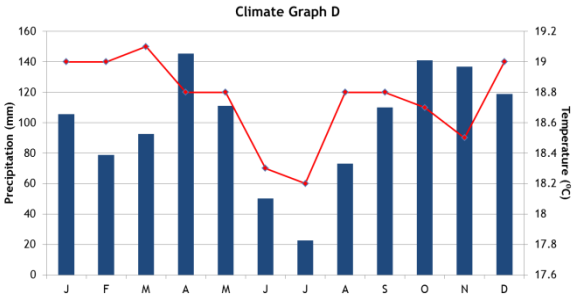
Map used courtesy of Sesmith (Own work) [Public domain 2007] via Wikimedia Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:No_colonies_blank_world_map.png

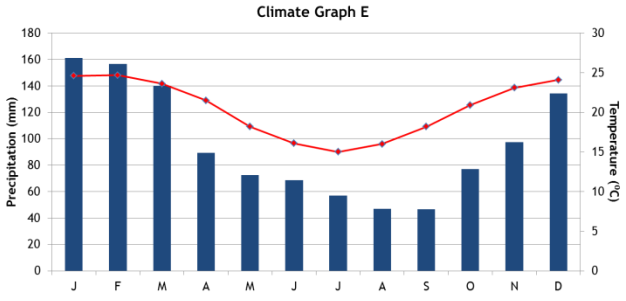
2. Match the correct climate graph to each of the eight cities.

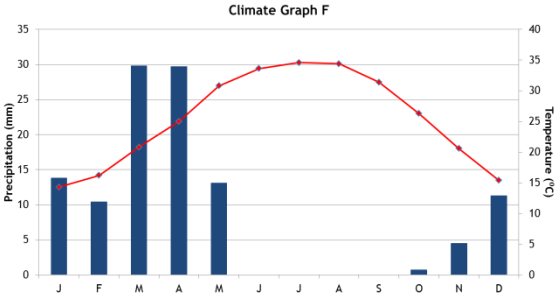


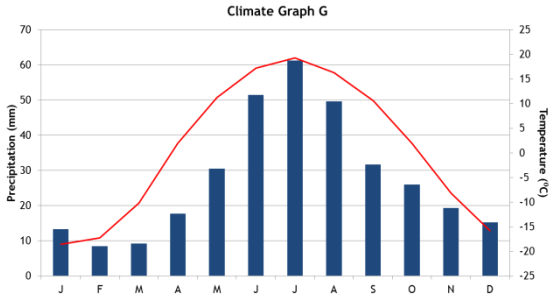


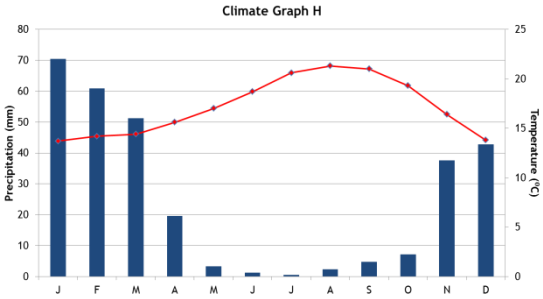












Teaching notes

The aim of this activity is to develop students' ability to interpret climate graphs and to consolidate understanding of global climate variations and factors affecting climate.

The resource is designed so that it can be used in various different way, for example in either in a whole-class situation with the climate graphs PowerPoint projected or with sets of resources printed for small groups of students.

Students could be asked:

- to match the climate graphs to the cities.
- to match the photographs to the climate graphs and the cities.
- to sketch climate graphs for the cities – these could then be compared to the actual graphs. How accurate were the sketches?
- to look at the graphs and the map and identify any particularly interesting or surprising features. (Are places as hot/cold/wet/dry as they expected? Do the cities have clearly identifiable seasons?)
- to suggest – having matched the photographs, climate graphs and cities – the time of year at which the photographs were taken.
- to look at the climate graphs and the way that they have been plotted. Do they show the climate data in the best way? How could they be improved? How easy is it to compare the climates from these graphs?

The 24 hour average temperature and average rainfall data is used courtesy of www.worldclimate.com.

The answers:

Graph	Image	Credit
A	7	Tromso, Norway © Rob Glover, 2009 www.flickr.com/photos/robglover/3392494619/
B	5	Paris, France Image used courtesy of Sarah Ellis, 2009
C	2	Lima, Peru © Radamantis Torres, 2008 www.flickr.com/photos/radamantis/3390799343/in/album-72157616242792467/
D	8	Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo Image courtesy of © Advantage Lendl 2011 https://flic.kr/p/aEGpjN
E	1	Brisbane, Australia © eGuide Travel, 2004 www.flickr.com/photos/eguidetravel/5024288807/in/album-72157607784262859/
F	6	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia © Andrew A Shenouda, 2007 www.flickr.com/photos/2007828/1412180612/in/album-72157602028721229/
G	4	Omsk, Russia © Fimafreidine , 2008 www.flickr.com/photos/fima-fr/2773163317/
H	3	Los Angeles, USA © Bobby Magee, 2008 www.flickr.com/photos/spacemanbob/2973150124/in/album-72157603934553440/