

# UNIT 6

## CLIMATE

### Lesson 1. Climates of the world

**1a.** What is weather and what is climate? Complete the sentences.

- ... is what occurs (happens) outside.
- Look out of your window any day, any time and you see ...
- ... is the average temperature, pressure, precipitation and humidity expected for a certain place.
- ... is based on the average ... experienced in a location over a long period of time – 30 years or more.
- ... describes the state (condition) of the atmosphere. It might be sunny, hot, raining, etc.
- Look out of your window every day for a month or longer, and you can determine<sup>1</sup> the ...
- ... is constantly changing as (= because) temperature and humidity change in the atmosphere.

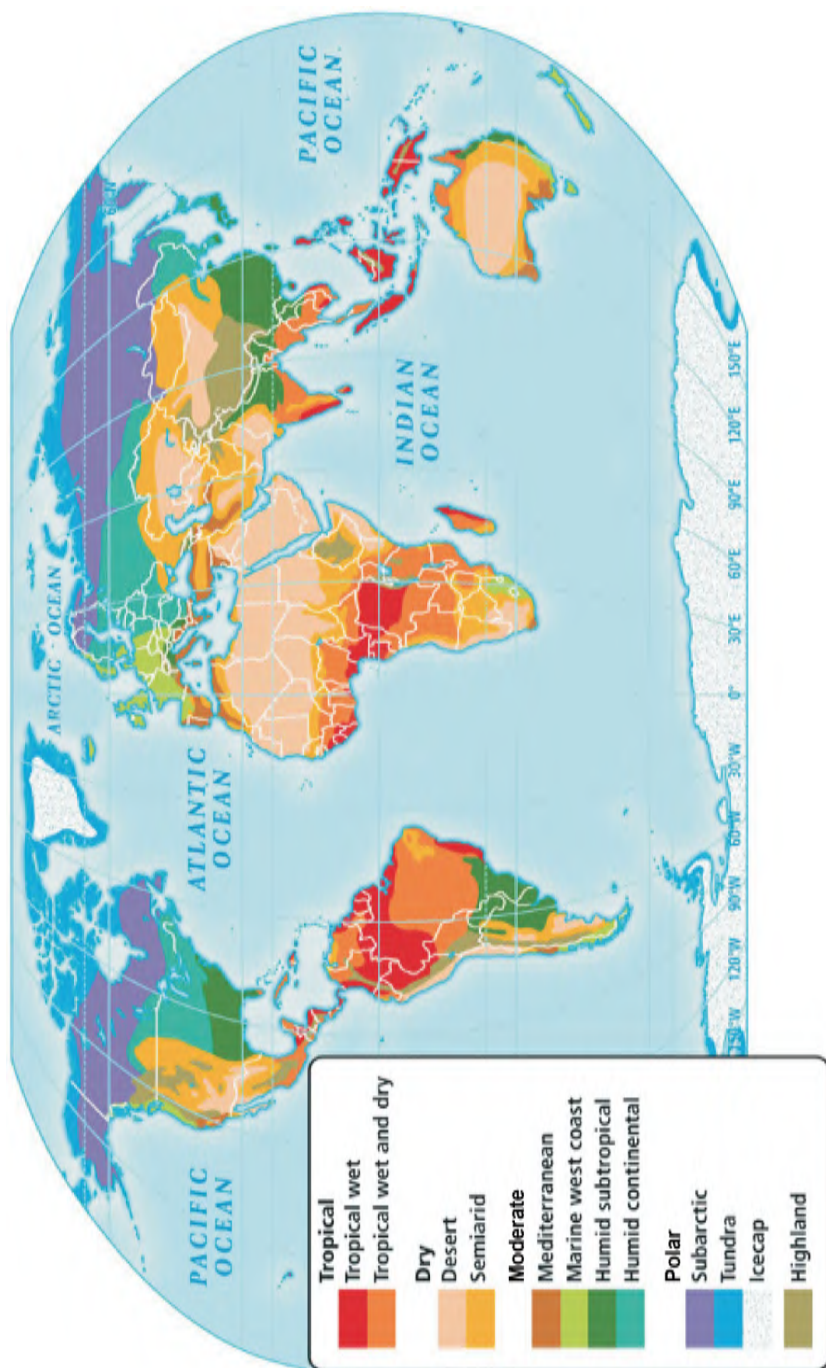
**1b.** Group the information about weather and climate. Sum up the information about weather and climate. Speak in pairs and then check with your class.

**2a.** Look at the world climate map. Which climates do you know? Which climates can you guess?

moderate [ˈmɒd(ə)rət] *adj* = mild = умеренный



<sup>1</sup> **determine** [dɪ'tɜːmɪn] – определить



## 2b. Use the following strategies to guess all the world climates.

### Compensation strategies

#### I. Using background knowledge.

Very often everything you know about the world (background knowledge) helps you understand the meaning of new English words. For example, you don't know the word arid ['ærid], but you see that arid climate is in Africa, and you know that there is a desert. Can you guess the word now?

**Remember:** *The more you know about the world, the easier it is to learn and understand a foreign language.*

#### II. Using visual aids.

You could also guess the meaning of the word 'arid', because you could see it on the map. Using pictures, photos, maps – visual aids<sup>1</sup>, also helps you understand English words.

Can you guess what *Mediterranean* ['meditə'reɪniən] climate is?

Where can you find marine [mə'reɪn] climate?

#### III. Using words which look like or sound like Russian or Belarusian words.

For example, the word *tropical* is easily understood as 'тропи-ческий' because half of the word is exactly like a Russian word.

See if you can guess the other climates:

continental ['kɒntɪ'nent(ə)l]

polar ['pəʊlə]

tundra ['tʌndrə]

arctic ['ɑːktɪk]



## 2c. Have a phonetic competition. Pronounce the names of different climates.

<sup>1</sup> visual aids – наглядные средства

**3a.** Look at the map and get ready to describe the climates of the USA, the UK and Belarus. Work in pairs.

### Help box


The climate of ... is influenced and conditioned by its location. As it is situated in the... of the... continent, its climate is mostly ...

Its climate varies (doesn't vary much) due to its size. It covers a large / small area, so its climate ranges from ... to... (so there are no significant differences between the districts of the country).

It's... in central / coastal / northern / southern ['sʌðən] / eastern / western areas of the country and it's....

The winter temperatures can drop (fall) to..., and in summer they are (usually) ..., but rise to... degrees Celsius.

**3b.** Present your descriptions and compare with the rest of your class. Whose descriptions are similar?

**4a.**  Listen and read more about the climates of these countries. Compare the information with your descriptions. Whose description fits best?

## The UK

**T**he UK is an island country and its weather and climate are strongly influenced by the sea, which surrounds the British Isles (Great Britain and Ireland). As the British Isles are times smaller than other lands in the northern hemisphere,



they are more influenced by the ocean than inland countries with similar latitude<sup>1</sup>. The sea warms up and cools down more slowly than land, keeping winters relatively (относительно) warm but also making the summers cooler. Besides, the warm sea current called the Gulf Stream, which

<sup>1</sup> **latitude** ['lætɪtju:d] – (географическая) широта

starts in the Gulf of Mexico, keeps the sea on the west side of Britain warmer – frosts are rare (редки) in these areas.

The overall climate in the UK is called temperate maritime. This means that it is mild with temperatures not much lower than 0 °C in winter and not much higher than 30 °C in summer. It also means that it is humid and changeable ['tʃeɪndʒəb(ə)l].

moderate ['mɒd(ə)rət] – not extreme; mild or calm; temperate ['temp(ə)rət]

## The USA

**B**ecause of its huge (very big) size the US climate is incredibly<sup>1</sup> varied. If there is a 'general' climate then it is **temperate**, but it is also tropical in Florida ['flɒrɪdə] and Hawaii [hə'waɪ], arctic in Alaska [ə'læskə], arid in the Great Basin of the southwest and semi-arid in the Great Plains to the west of the Mississippi River.

The temperatures range from 57 degrees C during the summer months in California's [ˌkælɪ'fɔːniəz] Death Valley to –62 degrees C in Alaska, with lots of different temperatures in between.



temperate (*adj*), about climate – never extremely hot or cold, with four distinct seasons

temperate (*adj*), about regions – between the tropics and the polar regions

## Belarus

**B**elarus has a humid continental climate with four distinct seasons and a sharp contrast between severe winters and warm summers.

<sup>1</sup> **incredibly** [ɪn'kredəblɪ] – невероятно



The average annual temperature is 5.8 degrees Celsius. Average monthly temperatures vary by 24 °C, ranging from –6 degrees Celsius on average in January to that of 18 degrees Celsius in summer.

Belarus has an average annual precipitation (rain and snow) of 550 to 700 mm, spread evenly throughout all months.

The average number of sunlight hours in Minsk is 1815 (of 4383 possible). It means that it is sunny 41,4% of daylight hours. The remaining 58,6% of daylight hours are cloudy, foggy or misty, mostly from October to March.




See more information on  
<http://www.minsk.climatemps.com/>

In general, there are no significant (great) differences between the districts of Belarus, due to the small size of the country.

The climate is influenced by the country's inland location, the domination of flat relief and relative remoteness (удаленность) from the Atlantic Ocean.

**4b.** Read again and answer: *What new facts have you have learnt about the climates of the English-speaking countries?* Work in pairs, and then play the “Last sentence” game with the whole class.

**4c.** Which of the climates would you enjoy? Which climates would you like to experience? Discuss in pairs and with the class.

**5.**  You want to invite your new friend from the International Weather camp to your place. Write a letter about the climate in your area and the weather during your favourite season(s).



Hi, ...

How are you?

One day I would like to see you at my place very much.

I live in ... region. It is in the ... of Belarus.

I recommend visiting Belarus in ...

The weather is mostly / usually ... here at this time of the year, but sometimes we have ...

On the whole our climate is ..., which means you can experience various weather in various seasons and enjoy doing various things.

Do come any time you choose.

Best wishes, ...

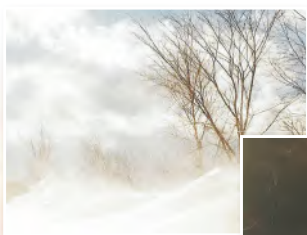
## Lesson 2. Extreme weather events

### 1. Discuss with your classmates.

1. Have you ever experienced extreme [ɪk'stri:m] weather?
2. What was it (heavy rain, heavy snow, strong wind, hail)?
3. Was it dangerous?
4. How did you feel (scared, insecure, unsafe)?

### 2a. Read the definitions of different types of extreme weather and match them with the pictures.

A



C



B



D



E

