



Teacher Resource

La Niña

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What does ENSO stand for?
 - a. El Niño Southern Oscillation
 - b. El Niño Southern Ocean
 - c. El Niño Surface Oscillation
2. What does El Niño mean?
3. The La Niña weather pattern brings Australia lots of rain. True or false?
4. If there is a La Niña weather pattern occurring in Australia, what sort of weather will the United States get?
5. What is a negative Indian Ocean Dipole?

Activity: Class Discussion

Students will discuss the BTN La Niña story in pairs and then share their thoughts with the class.

- What is La Niña? Come up with a class definition.
- What does La Niña mean in Spanish?
- What is the opposite of La Niña?
- Describe the weather in Australia when La Niña is about.
- What is there an increased risk of during La Niña?
- What impact does La Niña have on countries like Africa and the United States?



What did you learn from the story?

What questions do you have about the story?

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KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate what a La Niña weather event is and how it could affect Australia's weather.

CURRICULUM

Science – Year 6

Sudden geological changes and extreme weather events can affect Earth's surface.

Science involves testing predictions by gathering data and using evidence to develop explanations of events and phenomena and reflects historical and cultural contributions.

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

Geography – Year 5

The impact of bushfires or floods on environments and communities, and how people can respond.

Geography – Year 7

Causes, impacts and responses to an atmospheric or hydrological hazard.

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN La Niña story. Here are some words to get them started.

LA NINA	EL NINO	WEATHER
CLIMATE	ENSO	TRADE WINDS

Activity: Inquiry Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN La Niña story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

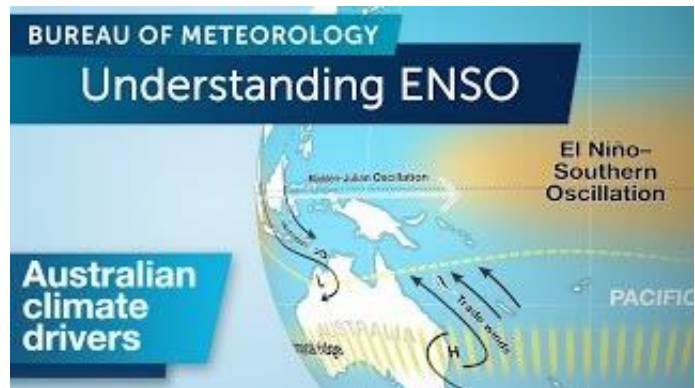
Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below. Encourage students to collect and record information from a wide variety of sources and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- What is the difference between La Niña and El Niño?
- What happens to create a La Niña event and what are the consequences of this event on people living in Eastern Australia?
- What are the effects of La Niña and El Niño in Australia? What type of climate pattern do we see with La Niña and El Niño?
- What weather effects does La Niña have on the area where you live?
- What role do oceans play in Earth's weather?
- What is the difference between weather and climate?
- What impact has La Niña had on Australia recently?
- Investigate a major flood event that has occurred in Australia. Include the following information in your response:
 - When and where did the flood occur?
 - What type of flood was it?
 - What impact did the flood have? Who and what was affected?

Activity – Understanding ENSO

Watch the [Bureau of Meteorology Understanding ENSO](#) video and respond to the following questions:

- What is ENSO?
- ENSO is often behind our climate extremes like...
- ENSO swings between three key phases. What are they?
- What happens in a La Niña phase and what does it mean for Australia?
- What happens in an El Niño phase and what does it mean for Australia?



Watch these videos to help students understand more about La Niña, El Niño and the impact of floods.



[BTN La Nina Explained](#)



[Big Weather: The Impact of Floods on Communities](#)



[BTN El Nino](#)



[BOM – Understanding Floods](#)

Activity: Visual literacy

In this activity students will analyse a range of images which show drought in Africa and the United States and floods in Australia. Students will choose one or more of the images below and respond to the following:

- What is happening in the image? Create a caption for each image.
- How does the image make you feel?
- What does the image tell you about the impact drought or floods have?
- What questions do you have about what you see in the image?



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)

Activity: Ask a Reporter - La Niña

Watch [this episode of AAR](#) and hear Cale and Amelia answer students' questions about La Niña.



Useful Websites

- [La Nina sea temperatures driving floods in Australia and drought in the United States and Africa](#) – ABC News
- [BOM declares a La Niña alert, signalling strong chance of another sodden summer](#) – ABC News
- [La Niña Explained](#) - BTN
- [Understanding ENSO](#) – BOM
- [What are El Niño and La Niña events?](#) - BOM
- [What is La Niña?](#) – NASA Science Space Place

Activity: La Niña Quiz

1. What does ENSO stand for?

- A. El Niño Southern Ocean
- B. El Niño Surface Oscillation
- C. El Niño Southern Oscillation

2. What does La Niña mean in Spanish?

- A. Little Boy
- B. Little Dog
- C. Little Girl

3. El Niño usually means reduced rainfall on the East Coast of Australia.

- A. True
- B. False

4. What causes La Niña?

- A. Cooling water in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America
- B. Warming water in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America
- C. Cooling water in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of South America

5. What is there an increased risk of in Australia during La Niña?

- A. Floods
- B. Drought

6. What effect is La Niña having on the US and Africa at the moment?

- A. Below average rainfall
- B. Above average rainfall

Quiz Answers: 1C, 2C, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A