



Teacher Resource

Weather Forecasts

Focus Questions

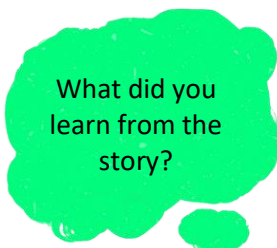
Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What is a meteorologist?
2. Where do meteorologists collect information from to make predictions about the weather?
3. We are in a _____ weather pattern at the moment which means an increased chance of _____.
4. How can people stay safe during times of severe weather?
5. What did you learn watching this story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Weather Forecasts story as a class. Ask students to record what they know about weather forecasting. What questions do they have? Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- Where does Simon work?
- What is a meteorologist?
- How do meteorologists predict the weather?
- Give some examples of where meteorologists collect information from.
- How far in advance can meteorologists predict the weather?
- Do you think the job of a meteorologist is an important one? Give reasons for your answer.
- How do people rely on weather forecasts? Give examples.
- What severe weather events has Australia experienced recently?
- Have you ever experienced a severe weather event? Explain your answer.



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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about how meteorologists predict the weather. They will also learn more about the floods impacting on parts of Australia.

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 Weather Forecasts story. Here are some words to get them started.

METEOROLOGIST	WEATHER	CLIMATE
FORECAST	FLOOD	DATA

Activity: Research

Discuss the information raised in the Weather Forecasts 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.

- How does the Bureau of Meteorology collect information to forecast weather? Create a poster using [Canva](#).
- How has weather forecasting changed over the years? Create a timeline.
- What is the difference between weather and climate?
- Investigate a major flood event that has occurred in Australia.
- Australia is in La Niña weather pattern at the moment. What is the difference between La Niña and El Niño?
- What impact has La Niña had on Australia recently?



Activity: A Day in the life of a meteorologist

Check out the ABC Education [A day in the life of a meteorologist](#) video and respond to the following questions:

- What does a meteorologist do?
- How is information about the weather communicated with the public?
- Meteorological responsibilities are split into two parts? What are they?
- What equipment is used to gather information from the upper atmosphere? Who is the information particularly useful to?
- What was surprising about the information in the video?



Activity: Visual literacy

In this activity students will analyse a range of images which show the flooding which occurred in Victoria, NSW and Tasmania recently. 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 floods have on a community?
- What questions do you have about what you see in the image?



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)

BTN Ask a Reporter

Watch the BTN [Weather Science](#) Ask a Reporter featuring ABC weather expert Nate Byrne.



Useful Websites

- [Bureau of Meteorology severe weather outlook. What does it mean for each state and territory?](#) – ABC News
- [BOM's severe weather outlook signals a summer of cyclones and floods](#) – ABC News
- [Explainer: how meteorologists forecast the weather](#) – Bureau of Meteorology
- [Weather Science](#) – BTN
- [Weather Forecasting](#) - BTN
- [Floods](#) – Geoscience Australia
- [Understanding Floods](#) – Bureau of Meteorology
- [Things you can do before a flood](#) – NSW SES
- [Big Weather: The impacts of floods on communities](#) – ABC Education