



Teacher Resource

Godzilla El Niño

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 El Nino?
2. What does El Nino mean in Spanish?
3. How does El Nino usually affect the weather in Australia?
4. How often do El Ninos usually happen?
5. Why is it called a “Godzilla” El Nino?

Activity: Comprehension

After watching the BTN Godzilla El Niño story students can answer one or more of the following questions, for example:

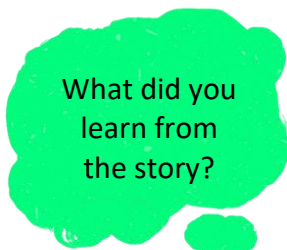
- What are some keywords from the BTN story?
- What did you learn from the story?
Write a summary.
- What is the purpose of this news story? To entertain, persuade, inform, explain or describe?
- Why do you think BTN covered the story?



Activity: Class Discussion

Students will discuss the BTN Godzilla El Niño story in pairs and then share their thoughts with the class.

- What is El Niño? Come up with a class definition.
- What does El Niño mean in Spanish?
- What is the opposite of El Niño?
- Describe the weather in Australia during El Niño.



EPISODE 18

23 June 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the cause and effects of El Nino. Students will create a comic which illustrates the key stages of an El Niño climate pattern.

CURRICULUM

Geography – Year 5

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

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 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 Godzilla El Niño story. Here are some words to get them started.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| EL NIÑO | LA NIÑA | SOUTHERN OSCILLATION |
| CLIMATE PATTERN | BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY | TRADE WINDS |

- What does ENSO stand for?
- What is a “Godzilla” El Niño?
- Make a list of words that describe the weather changes caused by La Nina and El Niño.
- What are the origins of the name El Niño? What does it mean in Spanish and what is the story behind its name?

Activity: Graphic Organisers

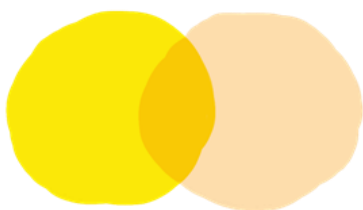
Graphic organisers are a helpful learning tool for students to organise, clarify, or simplify complex information. Students will choose one type of graphic organiser to help them explore and analyse El Niño.

Venn Diagram

Purpose: To compare the similarities and differences between two or more things.

Procedure: Write the items being compared in the circles. Where the circles overlap, record similarities. Record the characteristics which are different in the areas that do not overlap.

Activity: Compare the similarities and differences between El Niño and La Niña climate patterns.



Mind Map

Purpose: To assist in activities that involve planning, brainstorming, making notes, organising or problem solving.

Procedure: An issue or topic is written in the centre. Related ideas are linked to the central issue, and other ideas are developed from these.

Activity: Use a mind map to record what you know about El Niño.

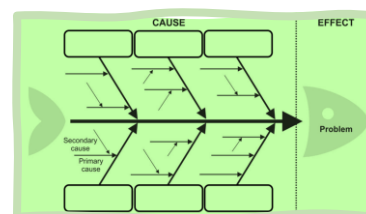


Cause-and-Effect

Purpose: To help identify causes for an effect or specific problem.

Procedure: Identify an event or action (cause) and explain the result that follows (effect).

Activity: Use a fishbone diagram to show how one stage leads to the next in El Niño.



Activity: Comic Strip

In this activity students will create a comic strip which illustrates the key stages of El Niño. Students will identify the cause-and-effect relationships in the El Niño climate pattern.

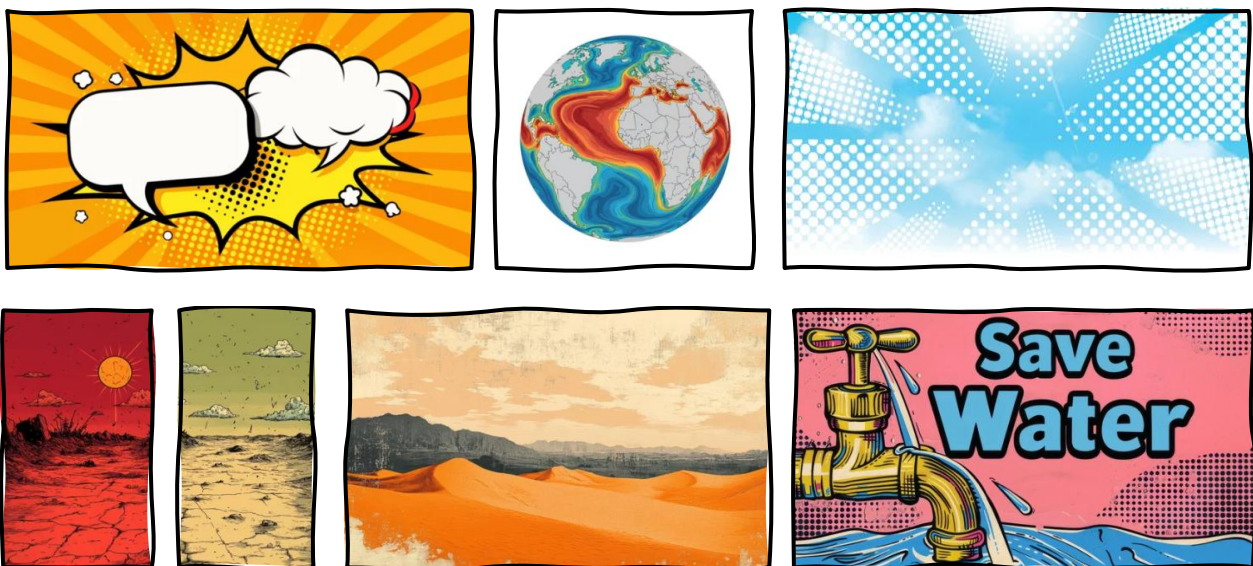
Before illustrating their comic strip, students will identify and respond to the following:

- What causes El Niño to develop? (changes in ocean temperature and trade winds).
- How does El Niño affect the weather? (changes in the weather including temperature and rainfall).
- What impact does El Niño have on people in Australia? (heatwaves, drought, threat of bushfires).
- What impact does El Niño have on the environment? (marine heatwaves, soil and vegetation distress).
- What are some practical solutions to El Niño? (monitor forecasts, water saving, resilient farming, fire preparedness).

Students will use the information they have gathered to illustrate a 5-panel comic strip which shows the key stages of an El Niño climate pattern. Students will include captions and dialogue using as many of the following key vocabulary.

Key Vocabulary

- Pacific Ocean
- Trade winds
- Climate pattern
- ENSO
- Ocean temperature
- Reduced rainfall
- Warmer weather
- Drought
- Bushfires



Activity: Quiz

1. What is the opposite of El Niño?

- A. La Niña
- B. La Doña
- C. El Hombre

2. What does the term ENSO stand for?

- A. East North South Ocean
- B. Eastern Northern South Oscillation
- C. El Niño-Southern Oscillation

3. What does El Niño mean in Spanish?

- A. The Little Girl
- B. The Little Boy
- C. The Man

4. How does El Niño usually affect the weather in Australia?

- A. Hotter and drier weather
- B. It doesn't affect the weather
- C. Cooler temperatures, more rainfall

5. When was El Niño first identified?

- A. By a meteorologist in the 1800s
- B. By Peruvian fishermen in the 1500s
- C. By scientists in the 1980s

6. What statement best describes El Niño?

- A. A climate pattern that affects weather around the world
- B. A season that occurs every summer
- C. A type of tropical cyclone

7. During El Niño trade winds usually...

- A. Weaken
- B. Strengthen

8. Which ocean is primarily affected by El Niño?

- A. Indian Ocean
- B. Pacific Ocean
- C. Southern Ocean

9. El Niño is a single storm that hits specific areas.

- A. True
- B. False

10. In Australia, El Niño usually means higher than average rainfall.

- A. True
- B. False

Quiz Answers:

1A, 2C, 3B, 4A, 5B, 6A, 7A, 8B, 9B, 10B

Useful Websites

- [El Niño: what it means for Australia's climate](#) – The Bureau of Meteorology
- [El Niño and La Niña](#) – The Bureau of Meteorology
- [What Is El Niño?](#) – NASA Science
- [La Niña](#) – BTN
- [El Nino](#) – National Geographic
- [What is El Niño and how does it impact Australia?](#) – The Bureau of Meteorology