

Teacher Resource

Episode 28 13th October 2020

La Niña Explained

Q Focus Questions

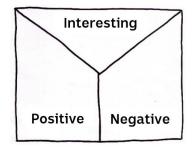
- 1. Briefly summarise the BTN story.
- 2. What does La Niña mean in Spanish?
- 3. Describe the weather when La Niña is about.
- 4. When was the last time Australia had a La Niña weather event?
 - a. 2008 2010
 - b. 2010 2012
 - c. 2012 2014
- 5. What causes the changing weather patterns in Australia during La Niña?
- 6. What is there an increased risk of during La Niña?
- 7. What does La Niña mean for farmers?
- 8. What is the opposite of La Niña?
- 9. Describe the weather during an El Niño phase.
- 10. What did you learn watching the La Niña story?

Activity

Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN *La Niña Explained* story. After watching the story ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



Key Learning

Students will investigate what a La Nina 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 7

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

☆ Activity

Class Discussion

As a class discuss the BTN *La Niña Explained* story, using the following questions as a guide. Record the main points of the discussion.

- What is La Niña? Come up with a class definition.
- How could La Niña affect Australia's weather this spring and summer?
- What causes the changing weather patterns in Australia during La Niña?
- What is the opposite of La Niña?











Key Words

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN *La Niña Explained* story. Here are some words to get you started. Students may want to use pictures and diagrams to illustrate the meaning and create their own glossary. Here are some words to get you started.

Climate	La Niña	El Niño	
Weather	Trade winds	Pacific Ocean	



La Niña Research

Hold a class discussion after watching the BTN *La Niña Explained* story. What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

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, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one or more of the questions below.

- What is the difference between weather and climate?
- 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 does La Niña mean for farmers?
- What does La Niña mean for the cyclone season?
- Why are the weather events called La Niña and El Niño?
- What role do oceans play in Earth's weather?

Possible ways to present their research include:

- A 'Did You Know' Facts sheet
- Oral Presentation
- Prezi presentation
- Create an infographic using <u>Canva</u>

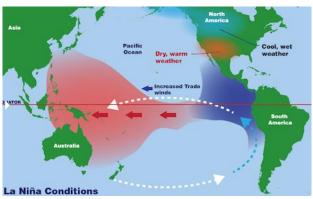


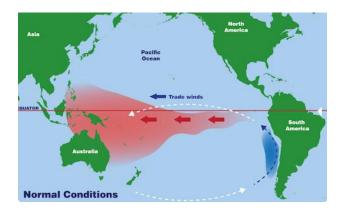


La Niña Conditions

The two images below show the differences between La Niña conditions and normal conditions in the Pacific Ocean. The interactive version of this diagram is available here. Ask students to examine the two diagrams and respond to the following questions:

- What happens to the Trade winds in the Pacific Ocean during La Niña?
- Warm water moves _____ during La Niña.
- As the warm water moves during La Niña, so do the clouds. What can that mean for the weather in Eastern Australia?
- La Niña causes water in the Eastern Pacific Ocean to be _____than usual.





Source: NASA

Activity

BTN Stories

Watch the BTN El Niño story to learn more about the weather event.

- 1. What are the two major weather patterns in the Pacific Ocean?
- 2. What do La Niña and El Niño mean in Spanish?
- 3. Describe the weather when La Niña is about.
- 4. How will El Niño change the weather patterns in Australia?
- 5. El Niño doesn't mean we definitely will experience drought. True or false?
- 6. What did you learn watching the El Niño story?



The BTN Weather Science story explains the important job weather forecasters do.

- 1. Where does meteorologist Phil work?
- 2. What is a meteorologist?
- 3. What aspects of the weather do meteorologists study?
- 4. Where can you find weather stations and instruments? Give one example.
- 5. How is climate different to weather?
- 6. How far in advance can meteorologists predict the weather?
- 7. Why is the job of a meteorologist an important one?





☆ Activity

BTN Ask a Reporter - La Niña



Ask a Reporter - Weather Science

Watch a previous Ask a Reporter Weather Science and find out more about the job weather forecasters do. Features answers from an ABC weather expert.





What is La Niña? - NASA Space Place https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/la-nina/en/

How the La Niña weather event could affect Australia for the rest of 2020- ABC News https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-09-30/how-la-nina-will-impact-australia/12716500

BOM declares a La Niña, signalling wet spring and summer likely for northern, eastern Australia – ABC News

 $\underline{\text{https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-29/bom-declares-la-nina-wet-conditions-likely-for-eastern-australia/12617528}$

What are La Niña and El Niño events? – Bureau of Meteorology http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/history/ln-2010-12/ENSO-what.shtml

La Niña - BTN

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/la-ni241a/10532864

El Niño - BTN

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/el-ni241o/10526536

Weather Science - BTN

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/weather-science/11933890

