



Teacher Resource

Climate Whiplash

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. In your own words, explain what 'climate whiplash' is.
2. Give an example of a climate whiplash event that happened in Australia over summer.
3. What does ENSO stand for?
 - a. El Niño Southern Ocean
 - b. El Niño Surface Oscillation
 - c. El Niño Southern Oscillation
4. What do experts say is contributing to climate whiplash events?
5. What does Andrew say we can do to reduce the impact on our planet?

Activity: Comprehension

After watching the BTN Climate Whiplash 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

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Climate Whiplash story. Record the main points of the discussion. Here are some questions to guide the discussion:

- Describe some of the weather events that have happened in Australia over the summer.
- What is meant by the term 'climate whiplash'? Give an example.
- Have you had weather extremes where you live? Explain.
- Think of two questions you have about this story?



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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about what climate whiplash weather events are in 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: Key Words

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

Flood

Cyclone

La Niña

El Niño

Heatwave

Climate Whiplash

Climate Change

Drought

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

Activity: Visual Literacy

In this activity students will analyse a range of images which show some climate whiplash events in Australia. Students will choose one or more of the images below and respond to the following:

- What is happening in the image?
- How does the image make you feel?
- What does the image tell you about the impact that extreme weather events can have on a community?
- What questions do you have about what you see in the image?



[Fires burn in Victoria's Otways. Less than 2 weeks before the fires there was flash flooding on the Great Ocean Road ABC News](#)



[Alice Springs recorded more than 30 summer days above 40°C before dangerous flash flooding on February 12 ABC News](#)



[Flash flooding in Mildura ABC News](#)



[Marree in Outback SA went from five days about 48C to flooding ABC News](#)

Activity: La Niña and El Niño

These BTN stories explain in more detail La Niña and El Niño. Students will watch these stories then respond to the questions below.



[BTN La Niña](#)



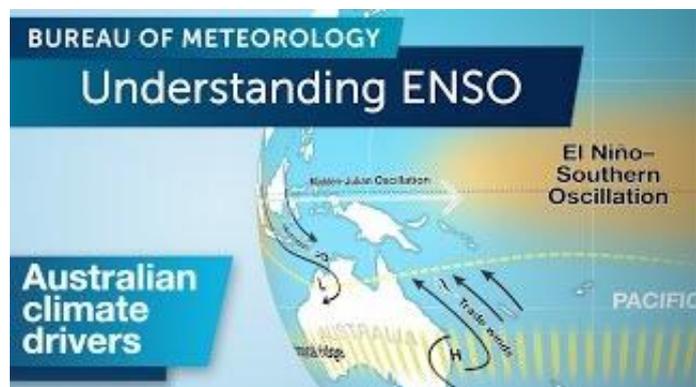
[BTN El Niño](#)

- Explain the difference between weather and climate.
- What is the difference between La Niña and El Niño? Explain each weather pattern,
- What are the effects of a Niña and El Niño in Australia? What type of climate pattern do we see with La Niña and El Niño?

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?



Useful Websites

- [Scientists say summer of weather whiplash points to driving force of climate change](#) – ABC News
- [Big Weather \(and how to survive it\)](#) – ABC Education
- [El Niño](#) - BTN
- [La Niña](#) – BTN