



# DID YOU KNOW? Fun weather

## DID YOU KNOW?

The highest temperature ever recorded in Australia was 50.7 °C at Oodnadatta, South Australia, on 2 January 1960.

**What could you do to keep cool?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The world's highest temperature was recorded on 10 July 1913 at California, USA. It got to a sizzling 56.7 °C!

## DID YOU KNOW?

The lowest temperature ever recorded in Australia was -23 °C at Charlotte Pass, New South Wales, on 29 June 1994.

**What items of clothing could you wear to keep warm?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The coldest temperature ever recorded is -89.2 °C (measured by satellite, not thermometer). This temperature was recorded at Antarctica on 21 July 1983.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Crohamhurst in Queensland holds the record for the most rainfall in one day—907 mm of rain fell on 18 February 1893.

**Place one end of a metre ruler on the floor and see how high it reaches on your body. Does it come up to your bellybutton?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Queensland also holds the records for the most rainfall monthly and yearly. January 1979 saw Bellenden Ker receive 5387 mm of rain, but 2000 was the wettest year, as 12 461 mm fell in total!

**Imagine that much rain all at once! What would you do?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are some places on Earth that receive barely any rain. Arica, Chile, went for 173 months, from October 1903 to January 1918 without any rain! What do you think would have survived?

**What do you think it would have been like living there?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The heaviest hailstone recorded was weighed at 1.02 kg on 14 April 1986 when it landed at the Gopalganj District in Bangladesh. Imagine that falling from the sky!

**Can you find items that are a similar weight?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Snow forms when the water vapour in the air changes to ice crystals due to low temperatures. There can be different types of snow—light and fluffy snow is called *powder*. Heavy snowfall is called a *snowstorm*, while heavy snowfall with high wind is called a *blizzard*.

**Have you seen snow before? What does it feel like?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

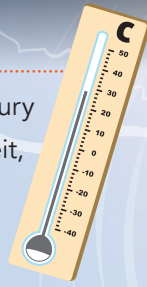
The sun's rays are lovely and warm, but they can be harmful! They contain ultraviolet radiation (UVR), which can cause sunburn and skin cancer. UVR can't be seen or felt, so you don't know that it's harming you. Always wear sunscreen, protective clothing, a hat and sunglasses when in the sun for extended periods of time!

**What else could you do to protect yourself from UVR rays?**



## DID YOU KNOW?

The person who invented the mercury thermometer was Gabriel Fahrenheit, in 1714. The measurement 'fahrenheit' is named after him.



## DID YOU KNOW?

There are three different types of clouds: cumulus, cirrus and stratus. Cumulus clouds are puffy; they look like cotton wool balls. Cirrus clouds are thin and wispy and appear high in the sky. Stratus clouds are flat and featureless; they can look like layered sheets.

**Go outside—are there any clouds in the sky? What type of clouds can you see? What is there the most of?**

# er facts

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you have to be extra-careful of UVR rays when in the snow or on the water? The reflection of light off the surface of the snow and water increases the access UVR has to you.

**What should you do to protect yourself when skiing or on a boat? (Don't forget to protect your eyes!)**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Want to know the difference between a hurricane and cyclone? The main difference is the location of the storm.

In Australia we call it a *tropical cyclone*. In the North Atlantic Ocean, the North-east Pacific Ocean (east of the dateline) and the South Pacific Ocean the same type of weather is called a *hurricane*.

**Can you imitate what a cyclone would look like?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Wind is caused by differences in air pressure. It occurs when air rushes from high pressure areas to low pressure areas. There are many different types of wind:

- Short bursts of wind are known as gusts.
- A breeze is a light or moderate flow of air.
- A gale is a strong wind.
- A storm is strong wind accompanied by rain, thunder and lightning.
- A cyclone/hurricane has a low pressure area in the middle (called the eye) and high pressure areas surrounding it. The wind can blow extremely fast in cyclones and hurricanes, and can cause a lot of damage.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Want to know how fast the wind in a cyclone blows? It can travel anywhere between 63 km/h and 200 km/h or more! To put in perspective, a sneeze can travel at 150 km/h. So next time you sneeze, just think that it may have the same speed as a cyclone!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Australia's worst cyclone was Cyclone Yasi, which affected northern Queensland. It began on 31 January 2011 and lasted until 3 February 2011.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The most rainfall ever recorded in a 24-hour period was 1825 mm. It was recorded on 8 January 1966 during a tropical cyclone in Foc-Foc, La Réunion.

**Can you find La Réunion on a map?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can tell which way the wind is blowing by looking at a weather vane. The directions are the same as a compass: North, East, South and West. You can remember the order of a weather vane or compass by making up an acronym such as 'Never eat soggy weetbix™'.

**Can you think of another acronym for the directions?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Rainbows can only occur when it is raining and the sun is shining at the same time. The sun's light reflects off and refracts through the water droplets, which results in the colours of the rainbow. Did you know you can only see a rainbow if your back is to the sun?

**What are the colours of a rainbow?**