Maturita Card 15: Weather

Bridge

• What is the weather like today?

It's hot and humid / drizzly / pouring with rain / hailing / there is a thunderstorm / it is bright and sunny / overcast / cool / damp / icy / snowy / foggy / misty / changeable. There were some showers and then the sun came out.

• Do you pay attention to the weather forecast?

I always check the weather forecast / watch the weather forecast on TV... because I don't want to be surprised by a shower or cold weather / before going on holidays. I read weather news regularly because I am interested in weather and climate and want to be a meteorologist. I think watching the weather forecast on TV is boring / I usually change programmes. I almost never check the weather in advance.

• What kind of weather do you like best and why?

I like it when it is foggy in the morning. It looks mysterious... I like clear days in winter, the light is good for taking photographs... I like gales and thunderstorms, most people don't but they are so dramatic and energetic... I like very hot, dry weather, but I don't think I'd like to live in a country where it was like that all the time.

• What sort of weather do you like least?

I hate sleet. It's cold and wet, but it doesn't look nearly as attractive as snow. It's just grey and slushy... I don't like it when it's too hot. I prefer to be inside in the summer... When it's grey and cloudy it's really depressing, just really dull and boring.

Have you noticed changes in the weather as a result of climate change? Do your parents or grandparents remember colder winters than we have now?

I think that the climate hasn't changed much. I have noticed... that the temperature has risen / the snow has disappeared from the mountains / there have been hotter summers / more extreme weather such as hurricanes / gales. My grandparents talk about getting snowed in / having problems in winter... I think winters were probably much harsher in the past than now.

• What do you think the climate will be like in a hundred years' time?

It will probably be a lot hotter. Some scientists have predicted that Britain will have a climate like that of Southern France. The winters will be a lot milder and the summers will be much more overcast and maybe colder... Southern countries and countries near the sea will have problems. As the ice caps melt, sea levels will rise and cause floods. The high temperatures in these countries mean that diseases will spread much more

easily by the floodwaters... I think climate change is happening but there is still a chance we can slow it down... Climate change happens naturally anyway, but we have probably accelerated it.

• What problems can weather cause?

It can cause flooding if there is too much rain, or if snow melts too quickly and rivers flood... Snow and ice can make roads slippery and travel difficult... If there is little rain, it can result in drought. Hot summers can cause dehydration... Problems are worse if the weather is not typical for the country that experiences it. In the US you sometimes get hurricanes and tornadoes. In Australia you get bushfires / droughts. The hot sun means that Australians have a higher risk of getting skin cancer... Generally speaking, other continents have more extreme weather conditions than Europe.

What is the difference between weather and climate?

Weather is the condition of the atmosphere in terms of temperature / air pressure / moisture at a specific place and time. Climate is a collection of weather conditions common for a larger geographic area throughout the year.

How is the weather different in different parts of countries? For example, is there a difference between the weather inland and the weather on the coast?

The weather is dependent on the climate. There are tropical / mild / maritime / continental / polar climates. The weather close to the coast is often rainy / humid / with lots of showers. Water evaporates off the sea and forms clouds. When the clouds are blown over the land, they are forced to rise, they condense and it rains... There are often breezes / winds / storms. Further inland there are big differences in temperature between summer and winter, less precipitation and wind.

• What kind of climate would you ideally live in?

I like the climate here. It's mild / never extreme or harsh / we have long, warm summers... I like how the four seasons change, I would miss it elsewhere. I'd like to live in a hot climate, in California maybe, where it's always warm / sunny... I want to go to the tropics. It's sometimes humid, there are tropical storms, but the climate is right for hundreds of different species of plants and animals. I love winter sports, so it might be good to go and live in the Alps, where there is a lot of snow. It can cause problems, though, like avalanches and blizzards.

















