

Post-visit Activity:

What's the Weather Like Out There?

Objective

Students will recognize that climate is related to geography, and that Florida's climate is sub-tropical.

Next Generation Sunshine State Benchmarks: SC.5.E.7.5, LA.5.1.6.1, SS.5.G.1.2, MA.5.G.4.2, MA.5.A.6.4, MA.5.S.7.1

Vocabulary

climate
temperate

weather
tropical

zones
equator

polar
humid

Materials

Map of the world with latitude and longitude

Average Temperature and Rainfall data chart and smaller map (page 11)

Procedure

1. Review the terms: tropical, temperate and polar.
2. Pass out the individual maps to the students and ask them to refer to their small maps as you use the large map.
3. Point out the region known as the tropics: humid climates that are always warm with lots of rainfall (although some have dry seasons); and dry climates that are very warm during the day, cold at night, and have little rainfall. In humid tropical climates, we find rainforests; in dry climates, we find tropical deserts.
4. Research with the students the data missing from the temperature and rainfall chart.
5. Show the students how bar graphs are made, using a simple example. Then allow the students to make their own graphs from the temperature and rainfall data.
6. Identify Florida and our proximity to the tropics on the map.
7. Explain to the class that the plants at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden are from the warm tropical and sub-tropical regions around the world.

Extension-Global Forecast

You may use this activity as a springboard to a geography lesson on climates around the world. Rainfall and temperature data can be found on the Internet at www.worldclimate.com.



Name _____

Date _____

Tropical Explorations

Average Temperature and Rainfall

City Location	January Average Temperature (° Fahrenheit)	July Average Temperature (° Fahrenheit)	Average Yearly Rainfall (inches)
Belem, Brazil 1.45°S 48.47°W	77.9	78.4	111.7
Belize City, Belize 17.53°N 88.30°W	74.7	81.5	71.1
Iquitos, Peru 3.75°S 73.20°W	79.3	77.4	113.4
Hilo, Hawaii 19.71°N 155.06°W	71.6	75.7	
Kingston, Jamaica 17.93°N 76.70°W	78.1		
Los Angeles, California 33.93°N 118.40°W	56.3		
Miami, Florida 25.80°N 80.30°W			

