

Geography Alive: Stage 2 Geography (Topic 1: Places are similar and different)

Lesson 4: Constructing and interpreting climate graphs

Content focus:

In this lesson students learn how to construct and interpret climate graphs.

Resources:

- [Resource Sheet 1: Climate graphs](#)
- [Worksheet 1: Climate graph template](#)

Key inquiry questions:

- What are climate graphs and what do they tell us about the ways places are similar and different?

Outcomes:

A student:

- demonstrates the ability to construct and interpret climate graphs.

Lesson sequence:

- **Step 1:** Using **Resource Sheet 1**, explain to students that climate graphs combine line graphs and a column graph to show the average rainfall and temperatures experienced at a place throughout the year. Note that the line graphs show the average monthly maximum and minimum temperatures while the column graph shows the average monthly rainfall (precipitation).
- **Step 2:** With the aid of Figure 1 on **Resource Sheet 1** walk students through each element of the climate graph and explain how they are constructed.
- **Step 3:** Using the climate data for Sydney's Observatory Hill jointly construct a climate graph using **Worksheet 1**.

Station: Observatory Hill, Sydney

Latitude: 33.86 °S Longitude: 151.21 °E

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Annual
Average maximum temperature (°C)	26	26	25	23	20	17	16	18	20	22	24	25	22
Average minimum temperature (°C)	19	19	18	15	12	9	8	9	11	14	16	18	14
Average monthly rainfall (mm)	102	118	131	130	118	133	97	81	68	76	84	78	1215.7

- **Step 4:** Use the Bureau of Meteorology website, or a Google search, to source the climate data for the place in which you live or the place near you for which data is available. Have students construct the climate graph for this place using a copy of **Worksheet 1**.
- **Step 5:** Check for accuracy in graph construction and then pose a series of questions to assess your students' climate graph interpretation skills. Questions include: Which months have the highest average maximum temperature? Which month has the lowest average minimum temperature? Which is the wettest month? Which is the driest month?