Climate Graphs

Climate graphs combine line graphs and a column graph to show the average rainfall and temperatures experienced at a place throughout the year. The line graphs show the average monthly maximum and minimum temperatures while the column graph shows the average monthly rainfall (precipitation).

Climate graphs are drawn using data collected over a long period of time. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology collects this information.

The steps in drawing a climate graph are outlined below:

1. Write the temperature and rainfall information in the table at the base of the climate graph.

2. Using the precipitation scale on the left-hand side of the graph draw in a column showing the average precipitation for each month of the year. Colour the columns blue.

3. Using the temperature scale on the right-hand side of the graph draw in the line graphs plot the average minimum and maximum temperature information, making sure each dot is placed in the centre of each month. Join the points with a smooth curve. Red for the average maximum and blue for the average minimum.

4. Add a heading that includes the name of the place being graphed together with its latitude and longitude. Your teacher may help you with this information.

Figure 1 shows the features of a climate graph.

Figure 1: Features of a climate graph

The heading tells us the name of the place being graphed.

Latitude and longitude can be used to pinpoint the location of Sydney on the world map.

Station: Sydney

Latitude: 33.8688° S   **Longitude:** 151.2093° E

When plotting temperature be careful to mark the centre of the column.

The precipitation scale is located on the left-hand side of the graph.

Monthly rainfall is shown by a column graph – coloured blue.

These numbers show the average monthly maximum temperatures for Sydney.

Average monthly minimum and maximum temperatures are shown by a line graph – coloured red for the average monthly maximum and blue for the average monthly minimum.

The temperature scale is located on the right-hand side of the graph.

The letters stand for the months of the year.

These numbers show the average monthly minimum temperatures for Sydney.

These numbers show the average monthly rainfall for Sydney.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max. Temp (°C)	26.0	25.8	24.8	22.5	19.5	17.0	16.4	17.9	20.1	22.2	23.7	25.2
Min. Temp (°C)	18.8	18.8	17.6	14.7	11.6	9.3	8.1	9.0	11.1	13.6	15.7	17.6
Precipitation (mm)	101.7	117.5	130.8	127.9	118.6	133.2	96.6	80.7	67.9	76.4	83.6	77.5