

# Our Island Home

## INTRODUCTION TO THE UK



### GREAT BRITAIN



Great Britain, the largest island, consists of three countries – England, Wales and Scotland. Ireland is split into two – Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

## WHAT IS THE UK

### BRITISH ISLES



The British Isles consist of two large islands. These islands are called Britain and Ireland.

### UNITED KINGDOM



The UK consists of the four countries of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The Republic of Ireland is a separate country.

## FLAGS



NORTHERN IRELAND



SCOTLAND



WALES



IRELAND



ENGLAND



EUROPEAN UNION

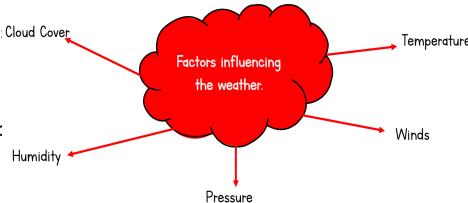


The United Kingdom, (UK), is located to the north-west of the continent of Europe. It has recently voted to leave a group of other countries known as the **European Union** or the EU for short.

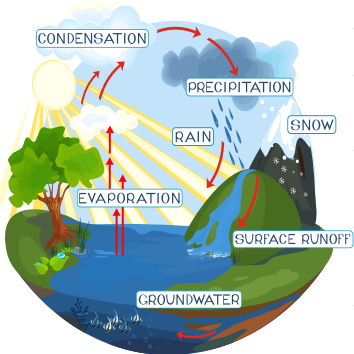
## WEATHER AND CLIMATE IN THE UK

**WEATHER** The conditions of the atmosphere, such as temperature and presence of rain and cloud. Weather changes daily.

**CLIMATE** The average weather conditions of a location over a long period of time.



## THE WATER CYCLE

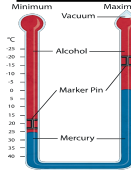


The water cycle models how water is transferred between the oceans and the atmosphere. The sun heats water in seas and lakes causing **evaporation**. Plants also release water from their leaves through **transpiration**. This warm moist air rises where it is cooled by surrounding cold air. This causes the water vapour to **condense** into rain drops. Eventually the drops become so big they fall as **precipitation**. This water travels over ground or through the soil into rivers and then back to the sea. The cycle then starts again.

## MEASURING THE WEATHER

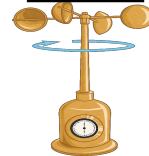
Meteorologists are people who study and measure the weather. The weather is observed by weather stations based on land and equipment carried on planes, ships, weather balloons and satellites.

### SIX'S THERMOMETER



Measures maximum and minimum air temperature over a 24-hour period. Temperature is usually measured in degrees Celsius.

### ANEMOMETER



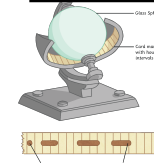
Measures wind speed in miles or km per hour. The cups rotate in the wind and turn a vertical rod.

### WIND VANE



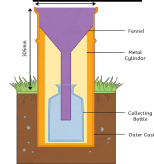
A wind vane shows the wind direction. The arrow points in the direction the wind is blowing from.

### CAMPBELL-STOKES SUNSHINE RECORDER



Measures the amount of sunshine during the day. A glass sphere concentrates the Sun's rays on a strip of card, burning a small hole.

### RAIN GAUGE



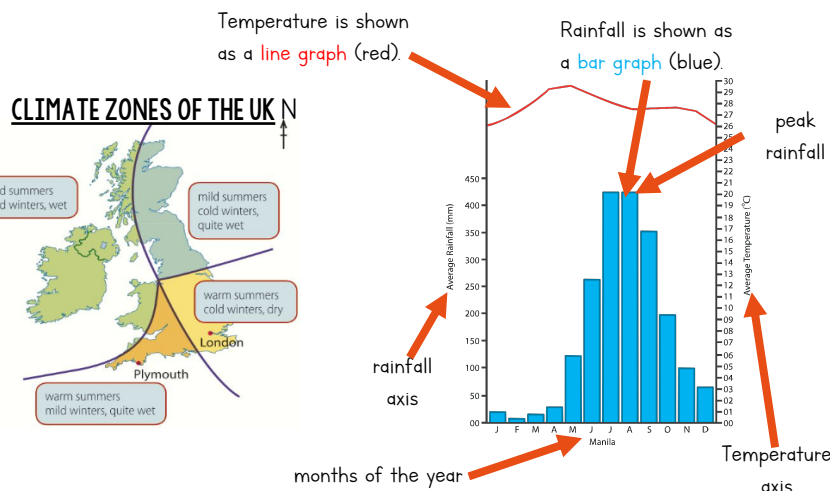
Measures the amount of precipitation (rain, sleet, hail or snow) that has fallen in a 24-hour period. This is usually measured in millimetres.

### BAROMETER



Measures air pressure. This is the force or weight of the air above us. High pressure means sunny and dry conditions, low pressure means stormy and wet conditions.

## CLIMATE GRAPHS



## MIGRATION

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another

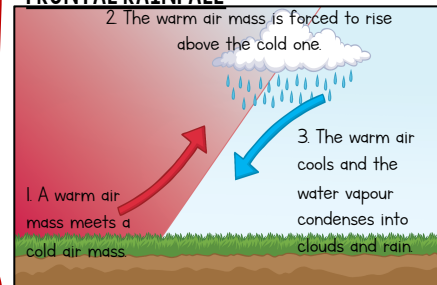
<b>VOLUNTARY MIGRATION</b>	When people have a choice where to move and if they should move at all
<b>FORCED MIGRATION</b>	When a government or authority forces someone to move, no choice.
<b>IMMIGRANT</b>	A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.
<b>EMIGRANT</b>	A person who leaves their own country in order to settle permanently in another.
<b>REFUGEES</b>	A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.
<b>ASYLUM SEEKERS</b>	A person who has left their home country as a political refugee and is seeking asylum in another.

## KEY WORDS

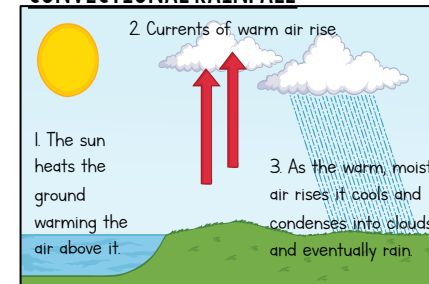
PRECIPITATION	ANEMOMETER	REFUGEES	MIGRATION
WEATHER	ASPECT	ASYLUM SEEKERS	EVAPORATION
BRITISH ISLES	PHYSICAL FEATURES	WATER CYCLE	TRANSPIRATION
BAROMETER	GREAT BRITAIN	CLIMATE GRAPH	IMMIGRANT
			EMIGRANT

## RAIN AND CLOUDS

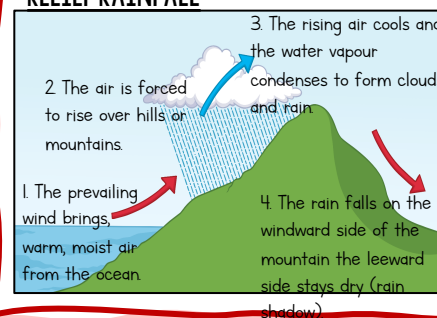
### FRONTAL RAINFALL



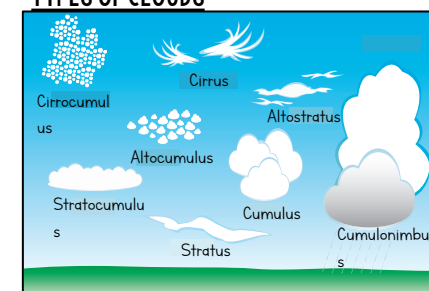
### CONVECTIONAL RAINFALL



### RELIEF RAINFALL



### TYPES OF CLOUDS



## MICROCLIMATES

When the climate in a small area is different from the general surroundings it is called a **MICROCLIMATE**

### WHAT AFFECTS MICROCLIMATES

<b>SHELTER</b>	This can protect you from the wind e.g. by trees, hedges, walls, buildings and even hills.
<b>PHYSICAL FEATURES</b>	Trees provide shade and shelter. Water areas e.g. lakes have a cooling effect. Hilltops are usually cool and windy.
<b>SURFACE</b>	The colour of surfaces affects warming. Dark surfaces e.g. tarmac and soil become warmer than light surface e.g. grass.
<b>BUILDINGS</b>	These give off heat that has been either stored from the sun or from heating systems. They also break up and reduce wind speed or they can speed it up by funneling it.
<b>ASPECT</b>	The direction in which something faces. In the UK south facing places get most sun so are usually the warmest