

Creating a weather data app

- 1** If the group is new to this topic start by showing them the **Bringing data to life film** (hyperlinked on slide 2). Ask them what they think is meant by ‘weather data’? (I.e. it can refer to observed and forecast data, as well as data that reflects the actual and predicted impacts of the weather)

In this activity, young people will select a type of weather data to help create an app of the future using the data fact-file provided on page 3.

- 2** Ask everyone to get into small groups and give each one a storyboard template (found on pages 4–6). Explain that to design their app of the future, they will need to work together in groups to decide on the following (slide 3):

- Target audience
- Title of the app
- Type of weather data



25 minutes



Groupwork



Data fact-files



Storyboard template and planner



Weather data app presentation slides

- Design of the content – what tools will the app have to make the data visualisations useful to people’s everyday lives or businesses? For example, could the app recommend the kinds of clothes to be worn each day, or the route a delivery van needs to take to avoid bad weather
- What purpose will the app have and what problem will it help to solve?
- What is the app’s USP (Unique Selling Point)?
- An explanation of how the weather data will be visualised

They will need to make sure everyone on the team has a clear role in coming up with ideas and planning how they will pitch their ideas to the rest of the class. Suggest that they define some roles (i.e. meteorologist who needs to make sure the weather data is correct, a designer, who needs to make the app visually appealing and ensure the key information is highlighted, a copywriter who needs to think about the words and make sure the text is easy to understand).

Depending on how much time you have available, we recommend allowing at least 15-20 minutes for this idea generation process and each group will need to manage their time carefully to have an idea ready to present.

- 3** When it comes to pitching to the group, you might want to add more of a business angle to this activity by inviting each group to incorporate a Dragons’ Den style overview, which includes their app’s unique selling point and suggested cost to download. The supporting planner worksheet (found on page 7) can help everyone flesh out their ideas.

Tip: The app can be designed using pen and paper and a downloadable template (found on pages 4–6). Alternatively, if your group has access to the internet and handheld devices, you can download the POP prototyping app to help your group bring their designs to life in a prototype digital format.

Data fact-file template

Pick one of the types of data below to design your weather data app

Air (or sea surface) temperature

Atmospheric pressure

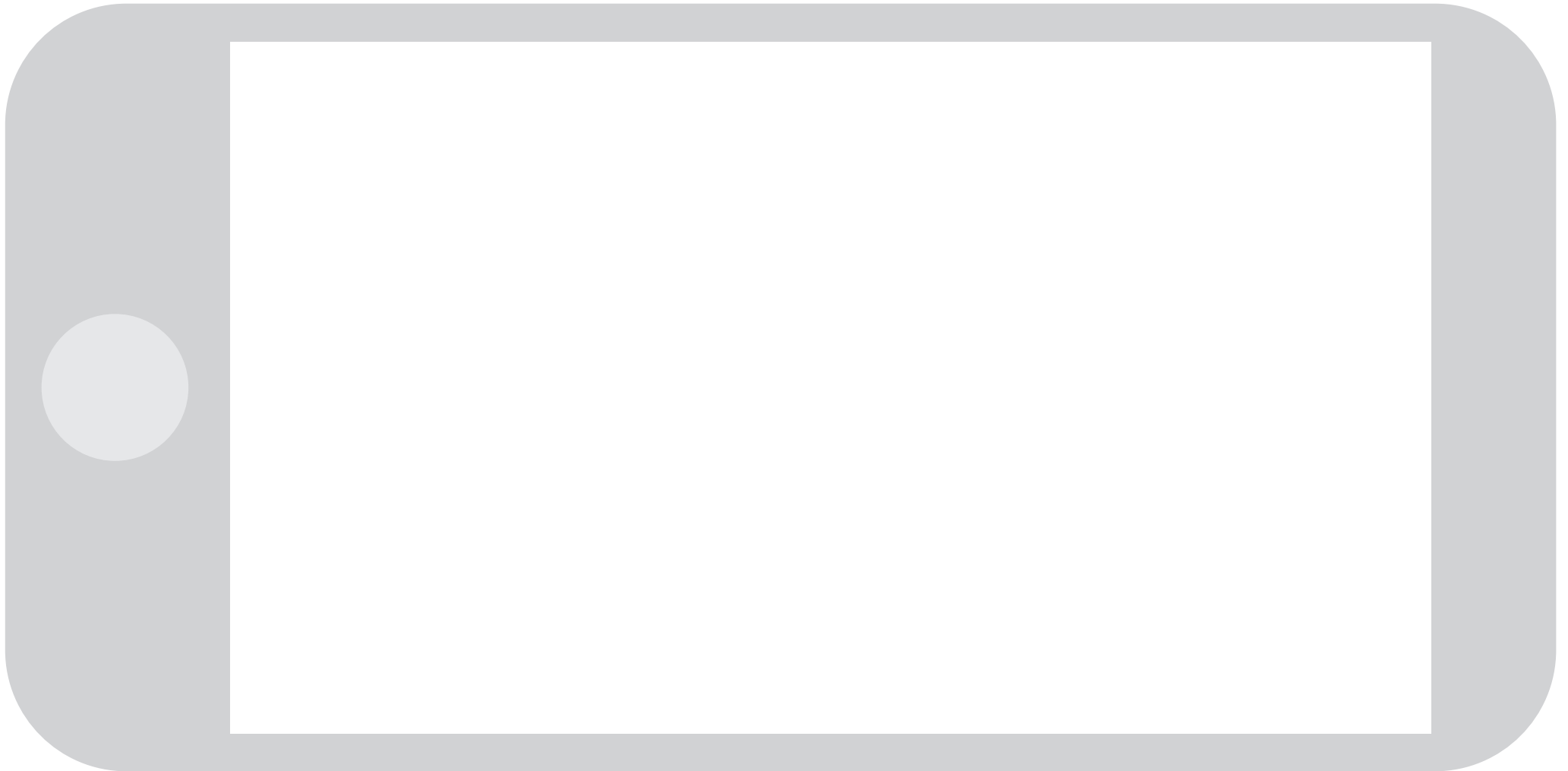
Wind speed and direction

Precipitation (rainfall)

Cloudiness

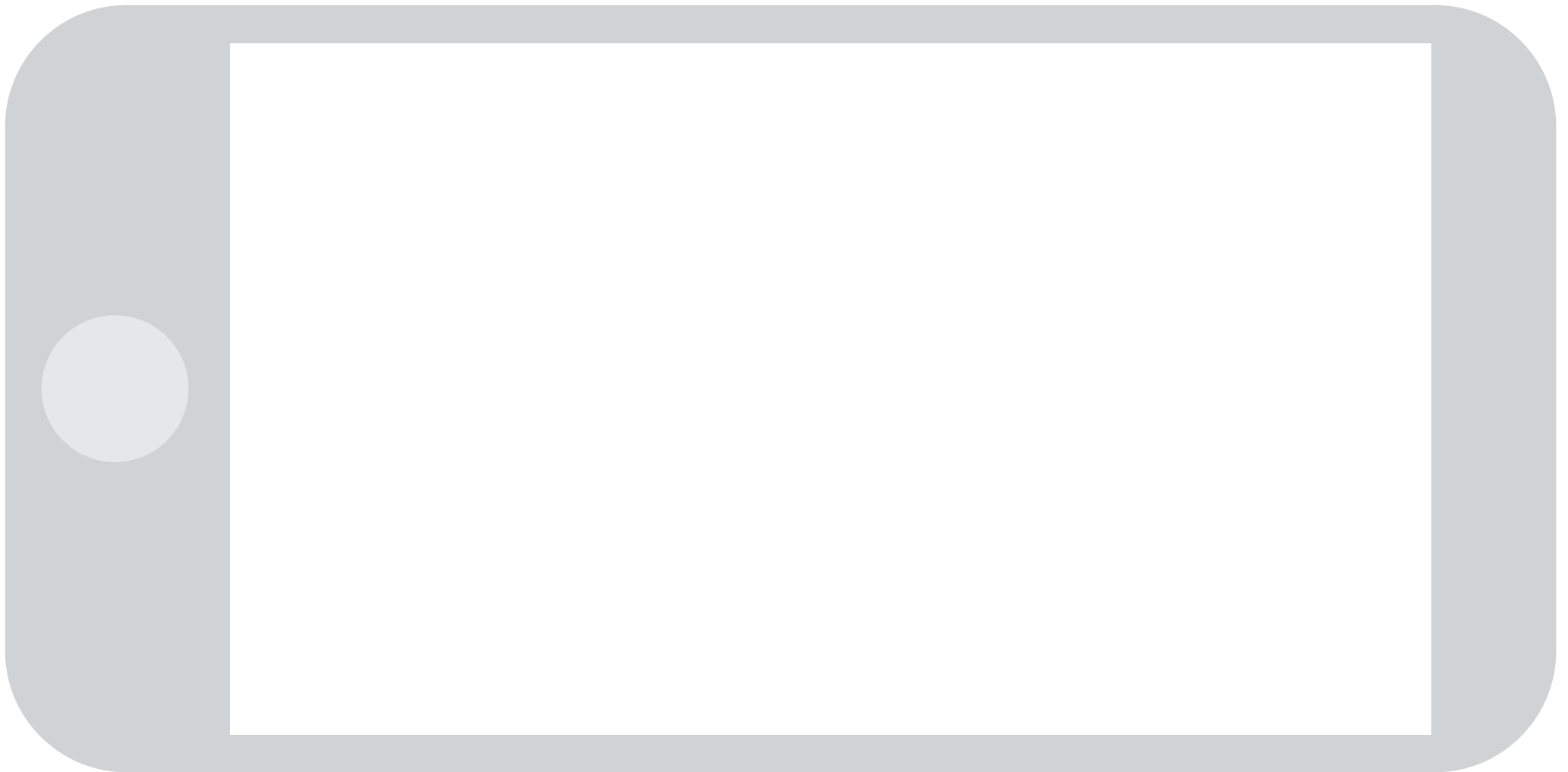
Impacts of weather

Storyboard template



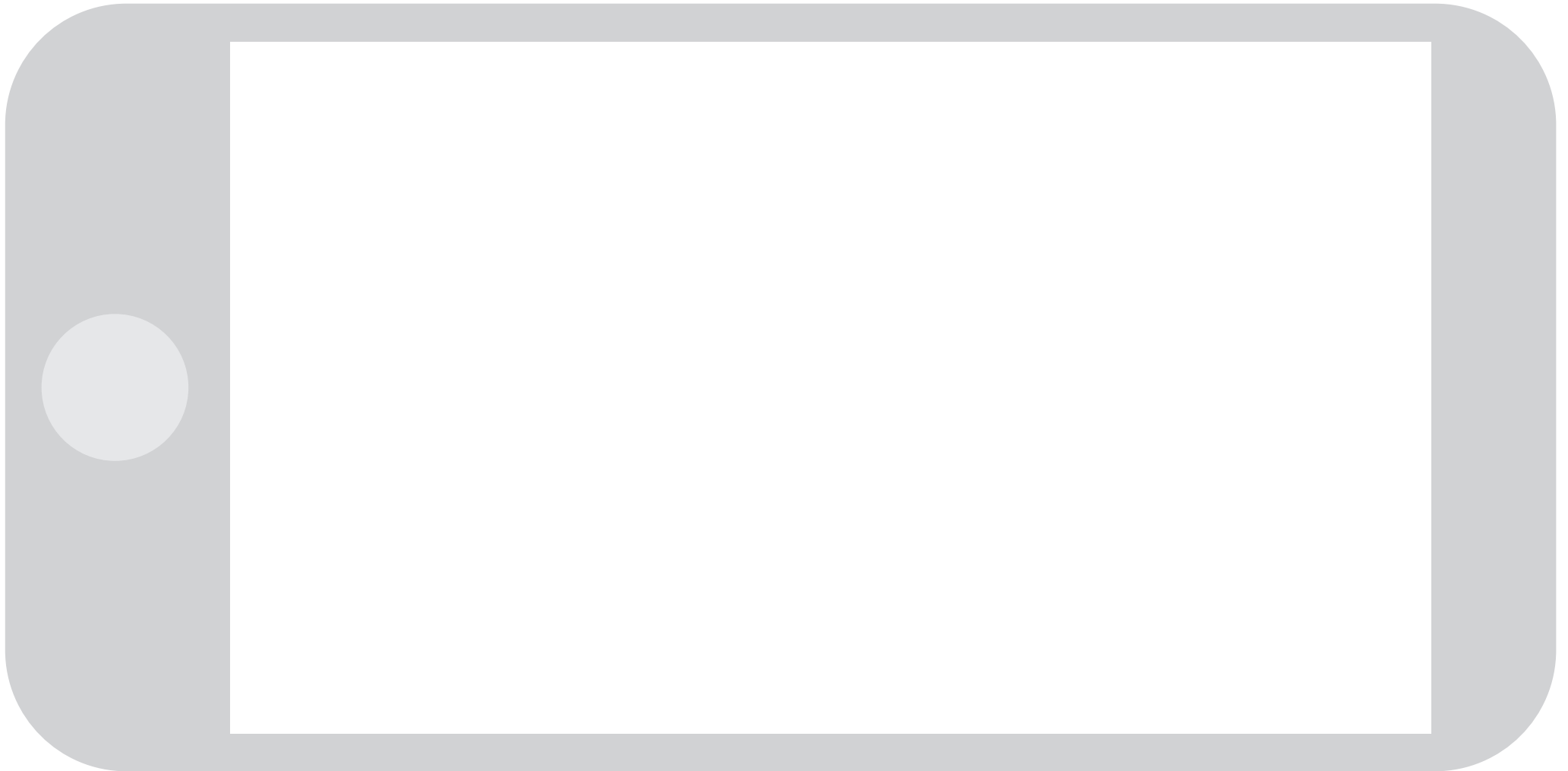
Front page or logo for the app – how will you make it stand out from the crowd?

Storyboard template



Homepage — what will this include?

Storyboard template



The forecast for the time period your audience is interested in

Planner

Overall aim:

Target audience:

How will the app be useful for people?

Type of weather data needed:

How will the weather data be displayed? (Data visualisation)

How will the weather data be collected or produced?

What tools will the app have?