



Exploring extreme weather events

- 1** If the group you're working with are new to the concept of extreme weather, you might want to kick off the lesson with a short introduction. You could show the **[Exploring extreme weather film](#)** (hyperlinked on slide 2) and ask the group if they can think of examples of extreme weather events they have heard about and think about what made those events extreme. If you need additional information, videos or images, you can find more resources **[here](#)**.
- 2** Divide the group into pairs or small groups of three and provide them with a computer, tablet or similar mobile device. Explain that they are going to do some quick research into an example of an extreme weather event using the extreme weather profile cards (found on pages 3–4).
- 3** Allocate each group an extreme weather profile card and give them 10 minutes to research a real-life extreme weather event of this kind, using the following prompt questions (on slide 3):



15 minutes



Groupwork



Exploring extreme weather events presentation slides



Extreme weather profile cards



Computer, tablet or similar device

- Why was the event significant?
- What was the impact of the event on communities?
- How did people respond to the event?

4 Bring the class together again to share ideas. Explain that there is a connection between extreme weather and climate change. In a warmer world, many types of extreme weather are expected to increase in frequency or severity. Scientists all over the world are researching the connections between climate change and extreme weather to help individuals, communities and nations to prepare for the consequences and mitigate future impacts.

More information can be found in the Met Office extreme weather and climate change briefing note available [here](#).



Extreme weather profile cards

Hurricane

Hurricanes are very large, rapidly rotating storms, with very strong winds and thunderstorms. Each year several make landfall and can cause considerable damage to property and loss of life. They are also known as typhoons or tropical cyclones.

Find out more:

www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/weather/tropical-cyclones/hurricane

www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/hurricane.html

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/hurricanepreparedness/>

Tornado

Sometimes called a twister, a tornado is a rapidly rotating column of air that reaches between the base of a storm cloud and the Earth's surface.

Find out more:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/tornadoes>

www.emsaonline.com/mediacenter/articles/00000184.html

www.stormaware.mo.gov/preparing-for-a-tornado/

Wildfires

Sometimes called brush fires, bushfires or forest fires, a wildfire is an uncontrolled fire in a natural area. It can be caused by a combination of very hot and dry weather, with fires being started either through lightning strikes or human activity.

Find out more:

www.kfwf.org.uk

www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/wildfires/

www.readyforwildfire.org/What-To-Do-If-Trapped/

Extreme weather profile cards

Blizzards

A blizzard refers to a cold, strong wind that is laden with snow which significantly reduces visibility (this means a blizzard makes it very hard to see things that are further away).

Find out more:

www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/snow/blizzard

www.which.co.uk/news/2019/01/how-to-stay-safe-in-snow-and-ice/

Sandstorm

Sometimes called a dust storm, sandstorms happen when very strong winds blow up sand and/or dust from an area that is extremely dry. They are common in deserts.

Find out more:

www.sciencing.com/are-there-warning-signs-before-a-dust-storm-occurs-13419067.html

www.arizonahighways.com/blog/do-you-know-what-to-do-during-dust-storm

www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/dust-storms.aspx

Heatwave

A heatwave is a long period of hot weather, which may be accompanied by high humidity.

Find out more:

www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/temperature/heatwave

www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/beattheheat/Pages/prepare-for-heat.aspx