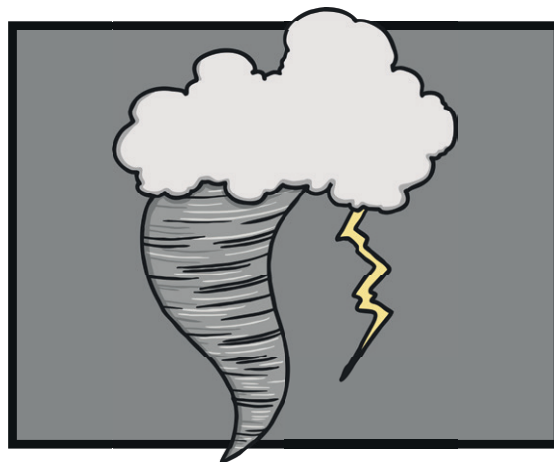


# Reading Booklet

Sample 2016 Key Stage 2 English Reading Booklet - Non-Fiction



Extreme Weather

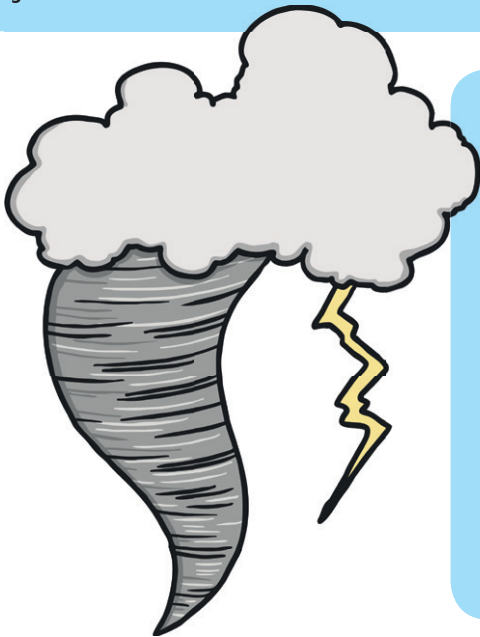
# Extreme Weather

## What is extreme weather?

Extreme weather is simply really bad weather, or weather on a large, serious scale. Extreme weather occurs when a weather event is significantly different from the usual weather pattern. This may take place over one day or a period of time.

For example, in the UK there is usually very little snow. But if there were to be lots of snow in the form of snowstorms and snowdrifts many metres deep, much worse than normal, this would be classed as an extreme weather event. Extreme wind could include gales, tornadoes and hurricanes, and extreme rain – lasting for many days – can cause serious flooding.

Extreme weather events do not happen very often. But when they do occur they can cause devastating destruction. Buildings, roads, homes and even lives have all been lost as a result of extreme weather.



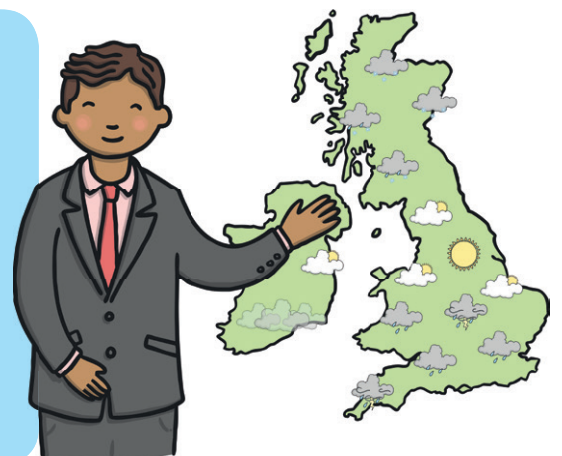
## Can we predict extreme weather?

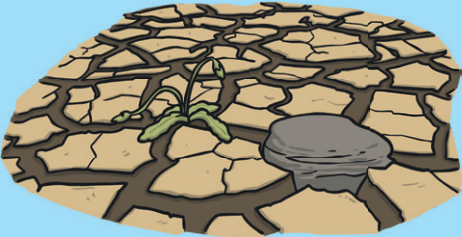




Yes we can, although some forms of weather events are easier to predict than others. A **meteorologist** is the name we give to people who assess and monitor the weather and weather conditions. We often call meteorologists 'weather forecasters'. The technology used in modern weather forecasting can tell us where and when a hurricane will hit land, allowing people to prepare their homes and leave the area if necessary. However, the movement of some storms, including tornadoes, is harder to predict.

## What do meteorologists do?

A **meteorologist** uses scientific ideas to explain, understand and forecast what is happening in the Earth's atmosphere. They predict and observe at how the atmosphere creates weather which affects life on planet Earth.

**Broadcast meteorologists** interpret and report on the weather on television and radio.



Types of Extreme Weather	Features and Effects
<p data-bbox="301 190 448 230"><b>Drought</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="689 190 1501 584">Caused by too little rain. Minor droughts in the UK happen during long, hot summers but don't last long. Major drought occurs when there is too little rainfall for years, even decades. South-western Australia suffered a drought lasting 12 years from 1997-2009. Drought causes dry rivers, shrivelled crops and starvation. Dry soil and dirt can be blown into the air and cause dust storms which block out the sun (sometimes called black blizzards).</p>
<p data-bbox="296 618 453 658"><b>Flooding</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="689 618 1501 925">Flooding is any area of land covered by water which is usually dry. Can occur steadily or be rapid and unexpected, causing loss of life. Main weather event which can be made worse by where and how we choose to live. More likely when there has been a lot of rain in recent days or weeks, when the ground is already saturated with water and cannot absorb any more.</p>
<p data-bbox="293 956 456 996"><b>Blizzards</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="689 956 1501 1263">Extreme snow can take the form of a blizzard, or snow storm. Common in northern regions of North America, Europe and Asia. When wind accompanies snowfall it can cause huge drifts of snow, sometimes several metres deep. Visibility can be zero – this is called a 'whiteout'. Can cover trains and cars, trapping people inside. Causes huge disruption to travel and business.</p>
<p data-bbox="284 1294 466 1335"><b>Tornadoes</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="689 1294 1501 1601">One of the most violent extreme weather events. Produces the strongest winds on Earth, close to 300 miles per hour. Lasts for a few seconds to many hours. Can occur anywhere in the world (speed varies greatly with location) and cause widespread devastation. 'Tornado Alley' is the name given to an area of North America where tornadoes occur most frequently.</p>
<p data-bbox="188 1635 561 1720"><b>Hurricanes, Typhoons and Cyclones</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="689 1635 1501 1989">Different names for one event – powerful, rotating storm with thunder, lightning and rain. Major danger to people, buildings and the environment. Hurricane is the term given to major storms affecting the Atlantic Ocean and nearby land (America, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico). In the Pacific Ocean they are called typhoons, in the Indian Ocean they are cyclones. Can move from sea across land, causing extreme flooding (waves up to 6m high).</p>



**Floodwaters can contain  
bugs that can cause  
serious illnesses**

**Floodwaters can  
disguise danger**