

Weather to travel

by Jackie McAvoy

Level: Pre-intermediate and above

Target age: Teenage and above

Time needed: 45 minutes plus recording time

Aim: For students to produce a short video / audio of a holiday weather report.

Materials: Digital camera or mobile phone / mp3 recorder (e.g. iPod)



Lead in to the topic

- Put the students in pairs and give each pair a copy of the worksheet to do part 1 A. Feedback: picture 1 is Jordan, 2 Vietnam, 3 Iceland, 4 Mexico.
- Tell the students they have all won a holiday for two! Each pair chooses one of the countries and writes their choice in part 1 B. Make sure each of the countries has been chosen by limiting the number of pairs who can go to each place. For example if you have 24 students, that's 12 pairs, only three pairs can go to each country. Perhaps get them to shout out their choices and once a country is 'full' insist that no-one else can go there!
- Now students are going to look at the weather for these countries. Do an example first: ask students to look at the first column of the table in Part 2. Which city has this weather in May? The students write in the name of a city. Feedback: Sydney. (New York is slightly hotter at this time of the year with 81mm of rain; London is cooler with only 46mm of rain.)
- Students look again at the four holiday destinations. Working in pairs they must decide which country (the data is from their capital cities) has the weather for these months. Once most students have guessed and written the names, let them compare their ideas before asking for their answers. Feedback: Iceland in February, Vietnam in May, Jordan in August and Mexico in November.
- Open class look at the Sydney data again. Refer to the advice about what to take: warm clothing because 11°C is a little chilly and visitors need protection from all that rain. Students then look at the column of the country they have chosen to go to only. Together they add advice for what to take depending on the data. This will mainly be clothes but can include other things, e.g. suntan lotion. Students can compare their answers with other pairs who are going to the same destination. Ask for suggestions open class – do the other students agree?

The task

The aim of the lesson is for students to record one month's general weather forecast for their holiday destination. For lower levels you may want to write up the first sentence: *What's the weather like in Sydney during the month of May? Well, it's...* (elicit: *quite good*). Then verbally, and with help from the students, make up a report using the data. Remember to use the present simple. (*There are about six hours of sunlight each day, and it can rain a lot: 127 mm over the month...*). For the advice elicit *It's a good idea to take...* Remember to take... or *You should take...* and write up these suggestions.

Preparing to record

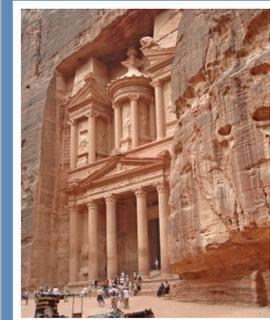
- Students are now ready to consider their own weather report. They should work in pairs and, using the notes from the table, practise talking about the weather to their partner. They should do this enough times until they are confident enough to be recorded (as a video or audio). See the worksheet *Top tips on recording*. Ideally students should aim for one minute. It can be longer, of course, but a shorter weather report is more interesting than a longer one to listen to. Why not get students to find pictures of their chosen country and make a weather chart, perhaps using a map and weather symbols too.
- After the weather reports have been recorded the videos can be uploaded to YouTube or Google Video. They can then be watched by all the students in another lesson. The videos can also be watched by other students around the world of course! Remember to put Onestopenglish in the title of the video, for example: *Onestopenglish Jordan in August weather report*.
- Audio recordings can also be listened to by all the students in another lesson. If your school has a website perhaps you can upload the recordings there so that other students can listen too.

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Worksheet

Part 1

A Match a country with a picture.



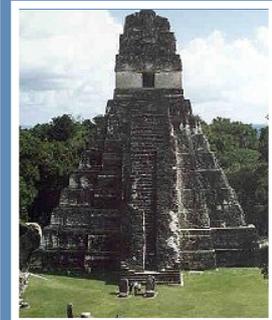
1.



2.



3.



4.

Jordan – visit the wonderful pink city of Petra, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Float on the Dead Sea and go diving in Aqaba – it’s a perfect holiday country!

Iceland – if you love nature you’ll love Iceland: there are glaciers, hot springs, geysers, active volcanoes, and mountains – it’s not all ice and snow!

Mexico – this country has it all: desert landscapes, snow topped volcanoes, ancient Mayan ruins as well as wonderful beaches.

Vietnam – take a trip to the mountains to visit the colourful local tribes. Relax on a boat while sailing through Ha Long Bay and enjoy some of the best food in Asia.

B Choose a place you want to visit:

We want to go to _____.

Part 2

This chart shows temperatures for major cities. Is the first column London, New York or Sydney?

	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	in May	in February	in May	in August	in November
average min / max temperatures	11 °C 19 °C	-2 °C 2 °C	23°C 32 °C	18°C 32 °C	8°C 20 °C
average sunlight (hours)	6	1	4	13	7
rainfall	127 mm	64 mm	196 mm	0 mm	18 mm
number of wet days	13	17	15	0	6
advice	take warm clothing for the evenings, a raincoat and an umbrella				