Grade 11 Unit 6 Lesson1-2 Vocabulary worksheet

1. Minnesota, USA:



Minnesota is a state which is located in the north-central part of the country, and where there are **enormous** weather changes from season to season. It has four distinct seasons: a rainy, cool spring from March to May; a hot, humid summer from June to August; a chilly, colourful autumn from September to November and finally a frigid, snowy winter lasting from December to February. Minnesota's winters are famous for their harsh conditions, with temperatures reaching as low as -51°C, and up to 432 centimeters of snow annually. Extreme snowstorms, sometimes referred to as blizzards, often lead to schools cancelling classes for multiple days at a time. These storms have wind speeds of up to 56 km/h and can last for over three hours, causing a "whiteout", or a condition where you cannot see anything outside. This often causes car accidents, and people can be trapped inside their homes for days. However, summers also come with their own weather issues, as Minnesota often experiences tornados, or spinning columns of wind which can reach speeds of 180 km/h and do great damage to buildings and people.

2. Philippines:



The Philippines is a country located on a collection of tropical islands in the southern Pacific Ocean. Weather in this Southeast Asian country differs greatly throughout the year. In the mountainous western part of the country, which includes the capital city of Manila, there are two distinct seasons: a "rainy season" and a "dry season". In this region the rainy season lasts from June to November and is characterised by hot and humid temperatures ranging up to 33°C. During the rainy season, the Philippines are subject to monsoons, which are sea-breezes that can have a very strong impact on the weather. Due to the humidity and **copious** amounts of condensation of water vapour in the air, summer monsoons bring **abundant** rainstorms. The average rainfall can be as much as 5000 millimeters per year, with the majority of that occurring during the summer monsoon season. The rainy season also sees many strong, destructive storms called typhoons. Typhoons, also known as cyclones or hurricanes in the western Atlantic Ocean, are tropical storms with wind speeds of between 118 and 219 km/h. The dry season, lasting from December to May, is the **complete** opposite of the rainy season. Unlike summer monsoons, winter monsoons do not bring the tropical rains, and often dissipate, bringing droughts to the Philippines.

3. Chile:

The South American country of Chile has a diverse climate with equally varied weather. One area, the Atacama Desert, located in northern Chile, is considered to be the driest non-polar place on earth. It is so arid in some parts that it is thought that there was no significant precipitation from 1570 to 1971, a period of over 400 years! The **absolute** aridity of the desert is explained by the fact that it sits between two mountain ranges creating a two-sided rain shadow, which is an area located on the leeward side of a mountain, protecting it from rainstorms and keeping it very dry. **Extreme** droughts are common, which is why the population is small for such a large area, with only around 300000 people. Easter Island, located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, is unique in Chile as it is the only region in the country classified as a tropical rainforest. The temperature is warm, averaging around 20–25°C, with 1118 mm of rain annually. This weather, along with the *moai*, or giant carved stones, makes Easter Island a popular tourist destination for people from all over the world.



2 Refer to the reading texts on pages 150–151 of the Coursebook and circle the correct synonym of the words in bold.

1 **extreme** – maximum/moderate

2 **absolute** – limited/full

3 **abundant** – generous/poor

4 **enormous** – small/huge

5 **copious** – plenty/rare

6 **complete** – unfinished/finishe

LIVEWORKSHEETS