Climate graphs

In this activity, we will learn how to read and draw climate graphs. We will learn about the climate in the UK.

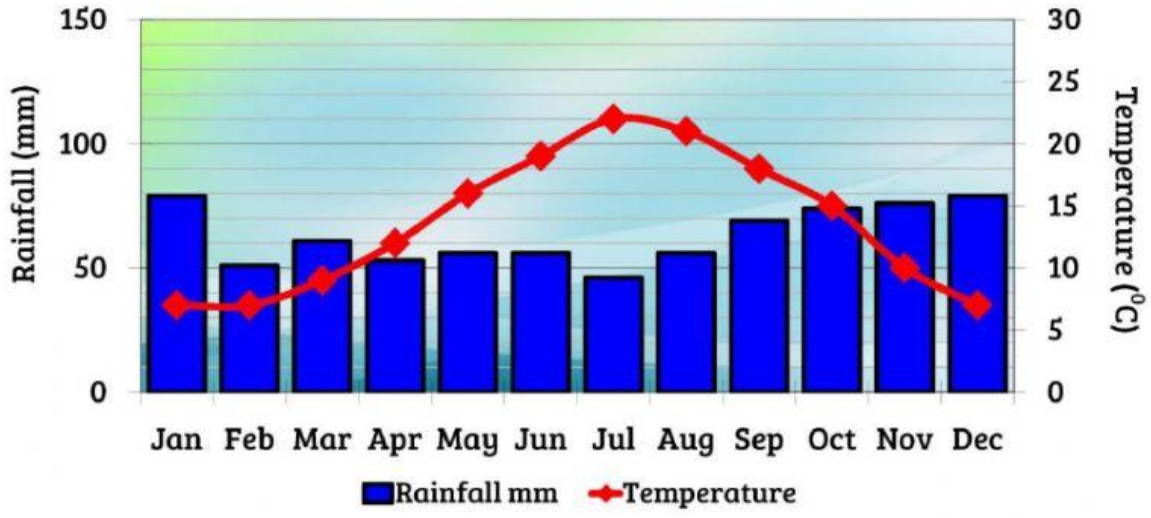
Climate is the average condition of the atmosphere taken over a period of time. It includes information on a variety of different aspects including rainfall and temperature.

Climate graphs show two types of information in the same graph. The most frequently depicted information shown is rainfall and temperature. The temperature shown is the average daily high and it is measured in centigrade or Celsius. The rainfall is measured in millimetres.

Reading climate graphs can be confusing in that it has two scales. One scale depicts temperature and the other scale depicts rainfall. It is important to use the correct one when reading information from a climate graph.

Practical applications of climate graphs can include helping people decide when the best time to go on holiday is. Also, farmers can use them to work out the optimum time to plant crops.

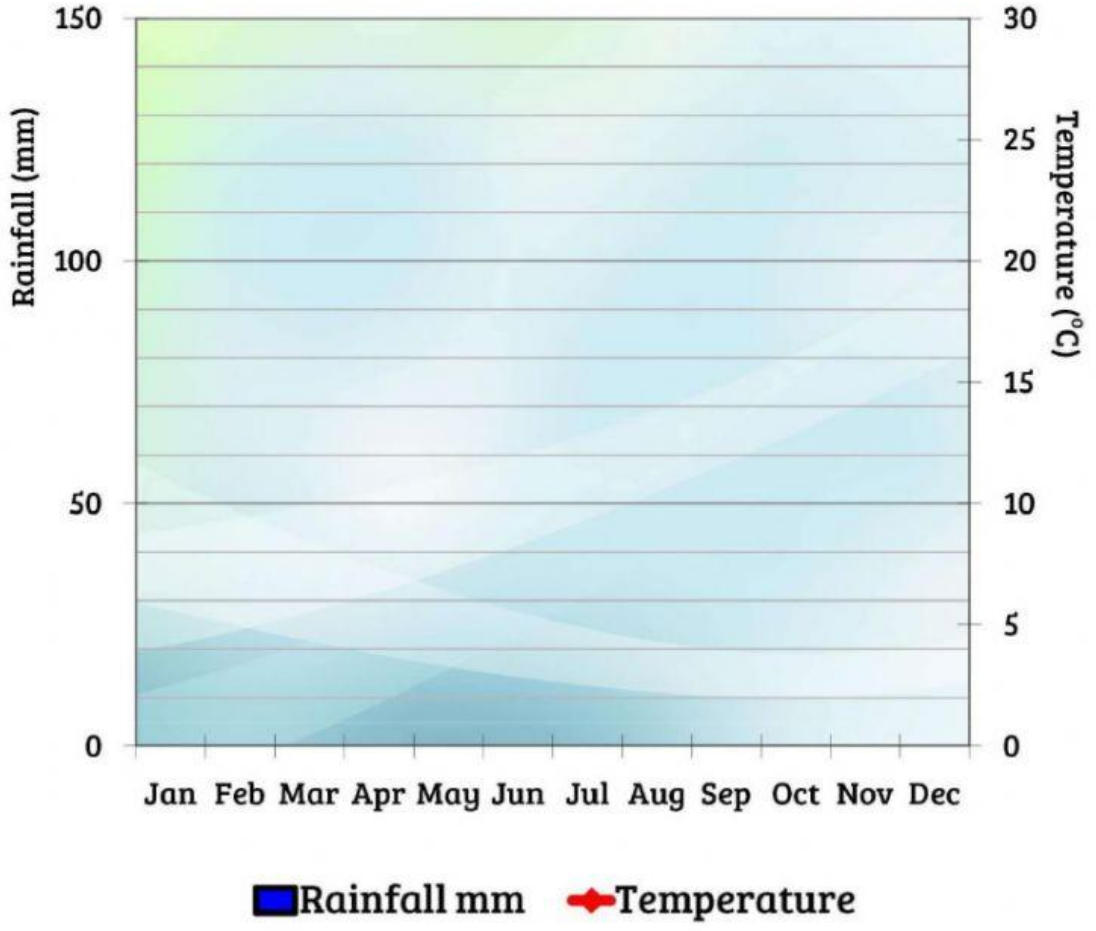
Question: Can you read this climate graph below? Which month is the hottest? Coldest? Wettest? Etc..



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high in °C	7	7	9	12	16	19	22	21	18	15	10	7
Average rain in mm	79	51	61	53	56	56	46	56	69	74	76	79

1 Look at blank climate graph of Edinburgh below. Using the climate data provided, complete the climate graph for Edinburgh using a red line to indicate the temperature and blue bars to indicate rainfall.

Climate Graph for Edinburgh, UK



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high in °C	7	7	9	12	16	19	22	21	18	15	10	7
Average rain in mm	57	42	51	41	51	51	57	65	67	65	63	58

2 Now that you have completed your climate graph, describe the rainfall patterns and temperature patterns that you can see. Identify three different patterns in your graph.

3 Looking at your climate graph of Edinburgh, choose when you think the best time to visit would be. Give reasons for your answers.

4 Compare the climate graph that you have made of Edinburgh to the one shown for London.