

## Places with rainy seasons

Read **pages 22 and 23** of your book and answer these questions.

**Q1.** What is a rainy or wet season?

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**Q2.** What is a dry season?

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.....

**Q3.** What is the rainy season called in India? .....

**Q4.** Shown below is a rainfall chart for Darwin, Australia. It has been partly completed using the table. Complete the chart and colour part of it yellow to show the dry season and the other part blue to show the rainy season.

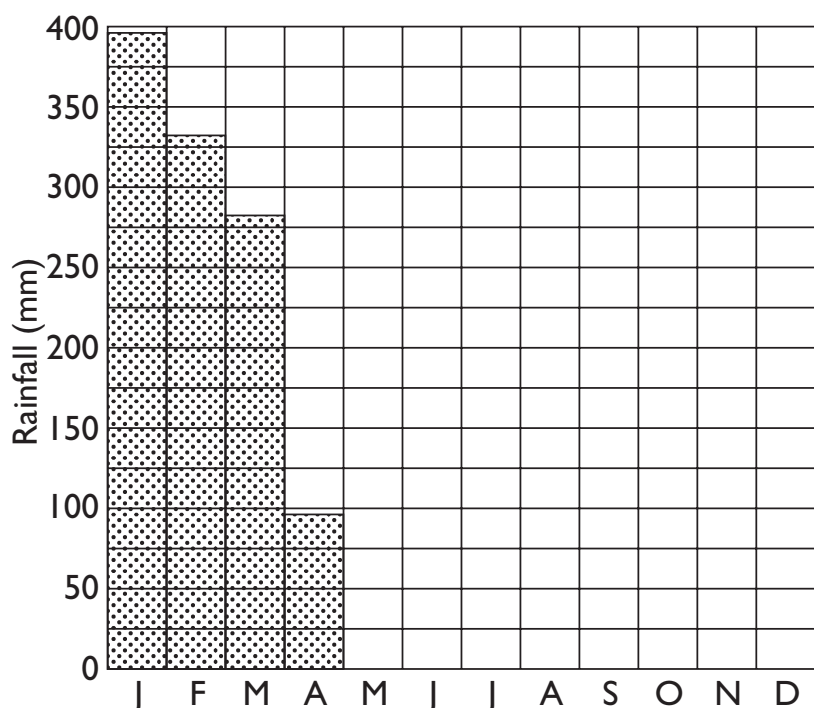
**Q5.** What time of year is the rainy season?

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▼ Table of monthly rainfall in Darwin, Australia.

Month	Amount of rainfall (mm)
Jan	400
Feb	330
Mar	280
Apr	100
May	20
Jun	0
Jul	0
Aug	0
Sep	20
Oct	60
Nov	130
Dec	240

▼ Rainfall chart for Darwin, Australia.



## Background

The purpose of this worksheet is to look at patterns of rainfall through the year. Students have to identify the rainy season and the dry season by observing the differences in the heights of the columns. They then have to estimate the length of the rainy season.

This will provide a basis for discussion of the nature of seasons in terms of rainfall rather than of temperature.

Explain to students that, in most tropical places, rainy and dry seasons are more important than temperature seasons. The term 'rainy' means that it rains from time to time, not that it rains all the time. You can also use the term 'wet season', to convey the impression of 'rains often'. Even during a monsoon it does not rain all the time, although it might rain without stopping for several days before there is a dry spell. Point out that a monthly figure for rainfall is usually made up of rainy days and dry days, wherever you are in the world.

Darwin has been chosen because it is a southern hemisphere location and so can be used in comparison with northern hemisphere locations.

## Monsoon effects

July is the height of the dry season for northern Australia, when the Indian monsoon (the counterpart of the Australian monsoon) is at its height. Air flows out from the high pressure regions of the southern hemisphere to the low pressure regions north of the equator in Asia. Virtually no rain falls. The Trade Winds blow constantly for many weeks, giving clear, sunny skies. The daily range of temperature is high because of the clear air.

As the Sun moves into the southern hemisphere, the land heats up, the continental high becomes weaker and a low develops over northern Australia. Rain-bearing winds begin to blow into the low and the wet season begins, arriving in Darwin in September. The rains do not burst, as in India, but develop gradually, as in Africa and South America.

The height of the monsoon is January. The rain is connected with slow-moving lows, which travel in a south easterly direction. Occasionally, they have tornadoes and hurricanes associated with them. The high temperatures and high humidity make the weather oppressively muggy.

## TIP: Reading a rainfall chart

Stand back from the chart and look at its shape. Remember, the taller the column, the more it rains. Each column stands for a month.

Try to decide if the columns all appear to be the same height (it rains about the same each month) or whether the columns are very different in height (there is a rainy season). Also, look to see if there are columns with nothing, or very little (there is a dry season).

## Answers

NOTE: On the worksheet rainfall has been given to the nearest 10 mm, for ease of plotting. The rainfall to the nearest mm is given below for your reference.

- Q1. The rainy season is the period of the year when the rainfall is much greater than at any other part of the year.**
- Q2. The dry season is the period of the year when the rainfall is much less than at other times of the year. It is sometimes, but not always, nil.**
- Q3. The monsoon**
- Q4. See chart below. The dry season should be coloured from March to September and the 'wet' should be from October to April.**

**Q5.**

Month	Amount of rainfall (mm)
Jan	396
Feb	331
Mar	282
Apr	97
May	18
Jun	3
Jul	1
Aug	4
Sep	15
Oct	60
Nov	130
Dec	239

▼ Completed rainfall chart for Darwin, Australia.

