



## World Weather Watch



Hello, welcome to our program. I am your weather lady, Sheila C. Thank you for tuning in today!

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Let's talk about the many types of **extreme** weather around the **globe**. First let's look at cold weather. Have you ever been in a **blizzard**? It is a huge and strong **snowstorm**. They are common in **northern** countries like Iceland, Canada, and Russia. Places can lose **electricity** and cars can get **stuck** in the snow.

What about hot weather? Do you know **heatwaves**? They are extreme hot weather for a long time. It happens the most in warm countries like Pakistan, India, or China. People can have **heatstroke** and die.

In Australia, they have **bush fires** that hurt the animals, like koalas and kangaroos. Other countries like Chile, Italy, and the U.S.A. have **wildfires** too. Speaking of hot and dry weather, do you know what a **drought** is? It means that no rain falls for a long time so many plants and animals die. The Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia) is experiencing one of the worst droughts in 40 years right now. Families need help to get water.

What about wet weather? Did you hear about the **flooding** that happened this January in New Zealand? That is when it rains so much that the water has nowhere to go, so it **overflows**. This happens in Japan too. Many countries have a rainy or **monsoon** season, like Thailand between July and October, or Japan in June. Near the mountains, too much rain can cause rocks and land to move. This is called a **mudslide**. A mudslide can **push** over a house.

We have **typhoons** in September in Japan, right? Typhoons in the Americas are called **hurricanes**. Powerful wind and rain that can **destroy** towns. In the U.S. we also have **tornados**, spiral **windstorms**, like in the movie *The Wizard of Oz* (1939).



Japan is famous for **devastating** earthquakes. Sometimes, those shocks can cause a **tsunami**. Extremely high and **dangerous** ocean **waves**. In February, there was a horrible **earthquake** in Türkiye (Turkey) and Syria. People still need help. How can WE help?

Did you know that some countries are **protected** from **natural disasters** and extreme weather? Singapore is very safe because it is **blocked** by other countries.

However, no one is safe from climate change! The **United Nations** (U.N.) says,

*“Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns, mainly caused by human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels.”*

This means that the Earth is getting hotter every day because of human activities, especially burning **coal**, **oil**, and gas for energy and **transportation**. Extreme weather will only become more extreme and dangerous for humans and animals.

CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE	CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE
	Polar ice melting
Burning fossil fuels	Sea levels rising
Transportation	Coral reefs dying
Deforestation	Forest fires
Food production	Droughts
Overconsumption	Heatwaves
	Extreme weather

So, what can we do? We can use renewable energy like solar panels, protect forests, eat less meat, drive electric cars, reduce trash, and take action! We can protest or make posters or get money for green groups.

**Global warming is increasing this extreme weather all over the world. The weather is getting more out of control every season. We need to work together to stop climate change and heal the Earth!**





## Natural Disaster Preparedness



Now for part two of our program, let's prepare for natural disasters. What is a natural disaster and what can we do? I will explain!











According to my favorite American dictionary called Merriam Webster, a **natural disaster** is 'a sudden and terrible event in nature (such as a hurricane, tornado, or flood) that usually results in serious **damage** and many deaths.'

So, many of the extreme weather events we talked about before are also natural disasters. The most common natural disaster in Japan is probably earthquakes, right? Each country has different possible natural disasters so they each prepare differently. How can we prepare? How can we help each other?

中 1 students take a field trip every year to the Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center (池袋防災館). There, they learn about fires, earthquakes, and health emergencies. We practiced using **fire extinguishers**, used an earthquake **simulation** machine, and practiced **CPR** on dolls. The 中 2 textbook *Here We Go! English Course 2* has a chapter about weather and making an **emergency** kit. It had wonderful advice for me to make my own emergency backpack that I keep near my door at my apartment. You can also buy a pre-made emergency bag at stores like Don Quijote. Here is what you will need!



Which items should you pack in your emergency bag?

 A flashlight	 B radio	 C map	 D whistle
 E food	 F bottled water	 G medicine	 H towels
 I clothes	 J gloves	 K pen	(自分で考えて) <input type="text"/>



So, are you ready for extreme weather or a natural disaster? To be honest, we can never be 100% ready, but we can do our best to prepare. Remember, if you can already help yourself, then you can be ready to help other people.

Be safe!  
Sheila C.

## Weather warnings in movies

### Your Name (君の名は): Disaster Preparedness

The main danger in this movie is a **comet** that destroys a **rural** town. The comet flying through the sky is so beautiful, but it is also dangerous. It is impossible for the main characters to stop a **meteorite** from falling, but it is possible for them to **evacuate** the town. The evacuation message they make on the town loudspeakers is calm and clear. In a real **disaster**, your local speaker system will have good advice for you to follow! It is also important to know where your local emergency **shelter** is! They are usually large places like local parks & schools. In the movie, everyone survives by calmly evacuating to the town's high school.

### Weathering with You (天気の子): Climate change

The **endless** rain in this movie **represents** real world climate change. It causes rising sea levels and extreme weather like snow in summer and **powerful** storms. One of the main characters is a **temporarily**. But the more she does it the worse the rain gets after. The people who ask for her help all have very simple reasons. For example, they want to hold a firework/sport festival or **wedding** day. In real life we might have good weather on their sometimes **overuse** our air-taxi when we feel too tired to walk up & slowly affect our climate. The disaster. After 2 years of rain half of Tokyo is **underwater**. Just like real life this isn't any one person's fault. The ending has an interesting message about **preventing** the changes we can and living with the ones we can't.



### Suzume (すずめの戸締り): The 2011 Tohoku Earthquake

In this movie the main characters travel around Japan closing magical doors which cause earthquakes. It pays respect to the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake; the worst in Japan's history. It caused tsunamis and a **nuclear** disaster. Around 20,000 people lost their lives, and around 500,000 had to evacuate their homes. The main character in the movie lost her home and mother. It shows us the sadness of the disaster, and how it still affects people over 10 years later. But is also shows us **hope**. At the start there is only one person working to stop the earthquakes. Along the way he is helped by friends, family, and **strangers** who all play a part in saving millions of lives. All of these movies use an **environmental** message to teach us how **important** it is to help each other, even in hard times.

