

Soaring sunshine sees cities swelter

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Cooling off: The UK's hottest day ever was recorded on 19 July 2022, when temperatures reached 40.3C in Coningsby, Lincolnshire.

Can we adapt to heatwaves? Britain is facing days of warm weather. While some are enjoying the sun, others fear that the country will struggle as temperatures rise.

What's happening?

Fridges are a good place to store your socks. Suncream works on dogs as well, stopping their noses from burning.

These are some top tips for staying safe in a **heatwave**. Between Wednesday and Sunday, temperatures will range from 25C to 30C, and might reach 33C in cities like London.

Find out more

For a heatwave, temperatures need to stay high for three days in a row. Britain's **Met Office** says that, due to **climate change**, we should begin getting used to the idea of 40C summers.

Hot weather can be risky for older people and those who are unwell.

It can also be bad news for the **environment**. Record temperatures can cause **droughts**, wildfires and floods. According to the **climate change** Committee, the UK is "critically **unprepared**" for rising temperatures.

Some say warmer weather could be a good thing. Pubs, restaurants, cafes and ice cream sellers make more money in hot weather. More people in Briton are choosing to holiday at home. Others say this comes at a high price.

Can we adapt to heatwaves?

Some say

Yes! Changing weather will bring new opportunities for food, drink and tourism. And Britons will learn to **adapt** to life in a hotter climate.

Others think

No! There will be more droughts, wildfires and flash floods. Heatwaves put people's health at risk. And many houses were not built with the heat in mind.

Six steps to discovery

Some people say

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Do you enjoy the summer weather in your country?

“Global warming isn’t a prediction. It is happening.”

James Hansen (1941 –), American climatologist

What do you think?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example:

How are heatwaves judged in other countries around the world?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Should the summer holidays start earlier? Write down your thoughts.

5. Express

What do others believe? - In groups, come up with five suggestions for staying cool in a heatwave. Then, present them to the class and vote on your favourite piece of advice.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Come up with a plan to help your country adapt to hot weather, or another change caused by climate change. Write down a list of actions for people to take.

Glossary

Heatwave - A period of abnormally hot weather.

Met Office - The Meteorological Office is the United Kingdom's national weather service. It was established in 1854 to provide a gale warning service for shipping.

Climate change - Long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Human action is a major cause of climate change.

Environment - The natural world.

Droughts - A time when there is not enough water and the ground is very dry.

Unprepared - Not ready.

Adapt - Change to fit a new situation.