

UNIT 3: THE ATMOSPHERE

WEATHER MAPS

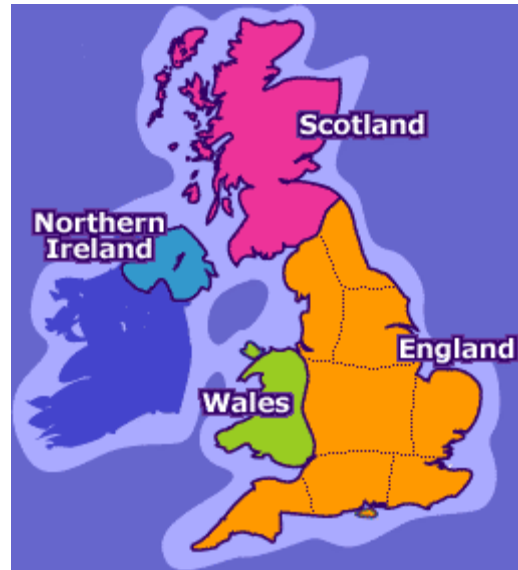
Dear language assistant,

You can show how to “read” a weather map using several examples compiled in a PowerPoint presentation and a current weather forecast from the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/ukweather/rain.shtml>).

- Teach how to set **the location of the point** you are talking about: in the North of Spain, in the South, in the East, in the South, in the Southeast, near to London, on the Atlantic coast, inland, between London and Bristol.... Perhaps you could also use this adjectives: nothern, southern, eastern, western. You can also ask about the weather in a partiucular place:
 - o Where is going to be bad weather on the map?
 - o Where is going to be warm weather on the map?
 - o Where is going to be freezing on the map?
 - o Is it cloudy anywhere in the map?
- Remind them which are the main **parts of the UK** and their capitals: England (London), Scotland (Edinburgh), Wales (Cardif) and Nothern Ireland (Belfast). Tell them that the Republic of Ireland is a different country. (They have a map of UK on their Activity Book)
- Remind how to interpret the **main symbols in a weather map**: Sunny, sunshine, cloudy, overcast, clear sky, rain, storm, local showers, drizzle, snow... The students can answer this general question “Is it mostly sunny or mostly cloudy?”
- Can you tell me what the temperature is? Some maps show **the temperature** in degrees Celsius and you can translate numbers into these adjectives: freezing, cold, cool, temperate, mild, warm, hot. Sometimes the maps include arrows pointing the changes of temperature: rising or increasing, decreasing, turning colder...
- Remind them how to talk about **the wind**. Adjectives to express the speed or strength of the wind: calm, breeze, moderate wind, strong wind, gale. *The direction of the wind is usually drawn with arrows and there are different ways to say it*
 - o *Wind from the South= **Southern wind**= South wind.*
 - o *Wind from the North= **Northern wind**= North wind.*
 - o *Wind from the East= **Easterly wind**= Eastern wind= East wind.*
 - o *Wind from the West= **Westerly wind**= Western wind= West wind.*
 - o *Wind from the Southeast= **Southeasterly wind**.*
- The weather website from the BBC includes animations so you can talk about the **changes of the weather during a few days** (the weather will become..., it’s getting more and more rainy, etc)
- Eventually, they can do two exercises on their Activity Book (page 51):

Read the following weather forecast and then draw the suitable symbols onto the map:

Rain is possible specially in the Southeast of England, cloudy sky in Wales and clear skies in the rest of the United Kingdom. Very strong winds from the Northeast in Wales and light winds from the North in England and Scotland. Temperatures rising.



Write a weather description for this map:



Thank you