

Weather and Seasons in Maple Town

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

INTERACTIVE ONLINE TEST

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Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

A Maple Town has four clear seasons, so the weather changes a lot during the year. People plan their clothes, food, and free-time activities by looking at the season and the sky. Spring starts in March. Days become longer, and the air feels fresh but still cool. The average temperature is about 12 °C. Pink cherry trees open near the river, and families enjoy short walks to see the flowers. Many people carry small umbrellas because spring rain often arrives suddenly and stops after one hour. Summer is hot and sunny. In July and August the temperature reaches 30 °C or more at midday. Children wear T-shirts and shorts, and they like eating lemon ice cream to stay cool. Some afternoons bring heavy storms with loud thunder, so the town council shares safety tips on social media: “Stay indoors, unplug phones, and wait twenty minutes after the last thunder before going outside.” Autumn begins in late September. Leaves on the maple trees turn red, orange, and gold, so tourists visit the town park with cameras. The air feels dry, and the temperature falls to around 15 °C. Farmers harvest apples and pumpkins, and the local market sells hot apple juice. Wind is common, so people wear light jackets and scarves. Winter arrives in December and runs until February. The coldest month is January, when nights drop to –5 °C. Snow covers the hills, and the town opens an outdoor skating rink beside the library. Trains can be late on snowy mornings, so many workers leave home ten minutes early. Hot soup and bread are popular winter meals. Because Maple Town’s weather is different in every season, residents learn to read simple forecasts and keep suitable clothes ready. Knowing the weather helps them enjoy daily life all year round.

Vocabulary Glossary

Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
average	usual or normal amount or level	<i>The average score in the class was 75 points.</i>
suddenly	quickly and unexpectedly	<i>The lights went out suddenly during the storm.</i>
council	a group of people who make rules or decisions for a town	<i>The council will decide if the park needs more benches.</i>
harvest	to collect fruits, vegetables, or grains from fields	<i>Farmers harvest corn in the fall.</i>
forecast	a report telling what the weather will be like	<i>The weather forecast says it will rain tomorrow.</i>
suitable	right or good for a particular purpose	<i>This dress is suitable for the party.</i>
residents	people who live in a place	<i>The residents of the city are voting today.</i>
temperature	how hot or cold something is	<i>The temperature is 20°C today, so it's warm.</i>

Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. The _____ temperature in Maple Town during spring is about 12 °C.
2. People were surprised when the rain started _____ during their picnic.
3. The town _____ meets every month to discuss new projects.
4. In autumn, farmers _____ apples and pumpkins from their fields.
5. I always check the weather _____ to know if I need an umbrella.
6. Warm clothes are _____ for the cold winter months.

Comprehension Questions

These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.

Question 1

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Maple Town is famous for its cherry trees.
- B. Maple Town's weather changes with each season.
- C. Many tourists visit Maple Town in the summer.
- D. Maple Town has very cold winters.

Question 2

Why do people in Maple Town carry umbrellas in spring?

- A. To protect themselves from the sun.
- B. To stay dry during sudden rain.
- C. To use as a walking stick.
- D. To show off their fashion.

Question 3

What happens in Maple Town during summer afternoons?

- A. People visit the town park.
- B. It becomes very windy.
- C. There are heavy storms with thunder.
- D. The temperature falls to 15 °C.

Question 4

What is the purpose of the town council's safety tips?

- A. To encourage more people to visit Maple Town.
- B. To help people stay safe during thunderstorms.
- C. To teach people how to dress for summer.
- D. To inform residents about new town rules.

Question 5

What do workers in Maple Town do on snowy mornings?

- A. They take a day off.
- B. They leave home earlier.
- C. They use public transport.
- D. They go to the skating rink.

Discussion & Writing Prompts

Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).

1. Paragraph 2 mentions that cherry trees bloom in spring. Are there any special trees or plants in your area that people like to see during a certain season?

2. In paragraph 3, the town council shares safety tips for thunderstorms. How does your community prepare for bad weather or natural events?

3. The passage states that hot apple juice is sold at the local market in autumn. What seasonal foods or drinks are popular in your area, and why do people enjoy them?

Answer Key

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 B

Q2 B

Q3 C

Q4 B

Q5 B

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 average

FIB2 suddenly

FIB3 council

FIB4 harvest

FIB5 forecast

FIB6 suitable

Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

✓ B — Maple Town's weather changes with each season.

Option B is correct because the passage describes how the weather in Maple Town changes each season.

✗ A — Maple Town is famous for its cherry trees.

Option A is incorrect because the passage only mentions cherry trees in spring.

✗ C — Many tourists visit Maple Town in the summer.

Option C is incorrect because tourists are mentioned in the context of autumn.

✗ D — Maple Town has very cold winters.

Option D is incorrect because it focuses only on winter, not the whole passage.

2. Why do people in Maple Town carry umbrellas in spring?

✓ B — To stay dry during sudden rain.

Option B is correct because the passage states that rain often arrives suddenly in spring.

✗ A — To protect themselves from the sun.

Option A is incorrect because umbrellas are not used for sun protection in the passage.

✗ C — To use as a walking stick.

Option C is incorrect because umbrellas are not mentioned as walking sticks.

✗ D — To show off their fashion.

Option D is incorrect as fashion is not a reason given in the passage.

3. What happens in Maple Town during summer afternoons?

✓ C — There are heavy storms with thunder.

Option C is correct because the passage mentions heavy storms with thunder in the summer afternoons.

✗ A — People visit the town park.

Option A is incorrect because visiting the park is mentioned in the context of autumn.

✗ B — It becomes very windy.

Option B is incorrect as wind is more commonly associated with autumn.

✗ D — The temperature falls to 15 °C.

Option D is incorrect because the temperature falls to 15 °C in autumn, not summer.

4. What is the purpose of the town council's safety tips?

✓ B — To help people stay safe during thunderstorms.

Option B is correct because the safety tips are shared to help people stay safe during thunderstorms.

✗ A — To encourage more people to visit Maple Town.

Option A is incorrect because the safety tips are not about attracting visitors.

✗ C — To teach people how to dress for summer.

Option C is incorrect as the tips are not about dressing for summer.

✗ D — To inform residents about new town rules.

Option D is incorrect because the tips are not about new town rules.

5. What do workers in Maple Town do on snowy mornings?

✓ B — They leave home earlier.

Option B is correct because the passage states that workers leave home ten minutes early on snowy mornings.

✗ A — They take a day off.

Option A is incorrect because workers do not take a day off; they leave earlier.

✗ C — They use public transport.

Option C is incorrect as the passage does not mention public transport.

✗ D — They go to the skating rink.

Option D is incorrect as the skating rink is not related to workers' travel habits.

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