





Extreme weather mindmap

- 1** If the young people you're working with are new to the concept of extreme weather, you might want to kick off the lesson with a short introduction. You could show the **Exploring extreme weather film** (hyperlinked on slide 2) and ask the group if they can think of examples of extreme weather events and what made those events extreme. If you need additional information, videos or images, you can find additional resources **here**.
- 2** Explain to the group that they are going to create a mindmap to help them explore extreme weather events. Explain that a mindmap is a diagram used to visually organise information. You can show the example provided (slide 4) so young people can see what it looks like.
- 3** Divide everyone into small groups and give each one of the extreme weather profile cards, (found on pages 3–4) and a piece of paper. Ask them to stick the card in the middle of it with glue or Blu Tack.

-  20 minutes
-  Groupwork
-  Extreme weather mindmap presentation slides
-  Extreme weather profile cards
-  A4 or A3 paper
-  Computers, tablet or similar mobile devices (optional)
-  Glue or Blu Tack

4 For their mindmaps, they are going to record all the words and ideas they associate with their given extreme weather. To help the group, you could suggest the layers of branches below and can use prompt questions including:

- Emotions: How would people who experience this extreme weather event feel? What kind of emotions?
- Impacts: What types of impacts are associated with this extreme weather? What differences would you be able to see in the local area before and after the extreme weather event? How might it affect people, plants and animals?
- Location: Where does this type of extreme weather tend to happen?
- Staying safe: How could people prepare for an extreme weather event? Who would be able to help?

Tip: If you have tablets, computers or similar devices available, you can encourage young people to do some research in groups using the links on their card, this might help them complete their mindmap. They can also use an online tool to build their mindmap: <https://app.mindmup.com/map/new/> Note that if you choose to do that, you might want to allow another 15 minutes to complete this activity.

5 When the groups have completed their mindmaps, ask for volunteers to share a few of the ideas and words they have included.

Extreme weather profile cards

Hurricane

Hurricanes are very large, rapidly rotating storms, with very strong winds and thunderstorms. Each year several make landfall and can cause considerable damage to property and loss of life. They are also known as typhoons or tropical cyclones.

Find out more:

www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/weather/tropical-cyclones/hurricane

www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/hurricane.html

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/hurricanepreparedness/>

Tornado

Sometimes called a twister, a tornado is a rapidly rotating column of air that reaches between the base of a storm cloud and the Earth's surface.

Find out more:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/tornadoes>

www.emsaonline.com/mediacenter/articles/00000184.html

www.stormaware.mo.gov/preparing-for-a-tornado/

Wildfires

Sometimes called brush fires, bushfires or forest fires, a wildfire is an uncontrolled fire in a natural area. It can be caused by a combination of very hot and dry weather, with fires being started either through lightning strikes or human activity.

Find out more:

www.kfwf.org.uk

www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/wildfires/

www.readyforwildfire.org/What-To-Do-If-Trapped/

Extreme weather profile cards

Blizzards

A blizzard refers to a cold, strong wind that is laden with snow which significantly reduces visibility (this means a blizzard makes it very hard to see things that are further away).

Find out more:

www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/snow/blizzard

www.which.co.uk/news/2019/01/how-to-stay-safe-in-snow-and-ice/

Sandstorm

Sometimes called a dust storm, sandstorms happen when very strong winds blow up sand and/or dust from an area that is extremely dry. They are common in deserts.

Find out more:

www.sciencing.com/are-there-warning-signs-before-a-dust-storm-occurs-13419067.html

www.arizonahighways.com/blog/do-you-know-what-do-during-dust-storm

www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/dust-storms.aspx

Heatwave

A heatwave is a long period of hot weather, which may be accompanied by high humidity.

Find out more:

www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/temperature/heatwave

www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/beattheheat/Pages/prepare-for-heat.aspx