



Weather in the media: reality or exaggeration?

- 1** If you have access to the internet, share this [TikTok video](#) from the Met Office.
- 2** Explain that when media report the weather, some weather stories can be exaggerated, and so it is important to identify real and exaggerated weather stories. It is also key to understanding the importance of the Met Office as a trustworthy source
- 3** Explain to the group that they are going to look at different headlines and will learn how to identify accurate and exaggerated headlines. Split everyone into small groups of two or three. Give each group 1-2 weather story cards depending on the time available, which include a headline and an excerpt of the article. Ask them to decide if the headlines give an accurate representation of the weather forecast depicted in the article, or if they are exaggerated. Give them 5-10 minutes to discuss and prompt with the following questions as needed:
 - What weather has been forecasted by the Met Office?
 - What impression do they get when they read the headline?
 - Do they feel the headline is accurate? Does it sound dramatic or exaggerated?



20 minutes



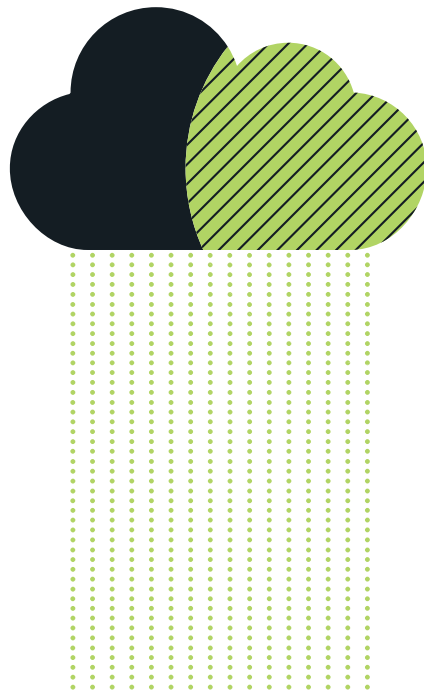
Groupwork



Weather story cards

You can also encourage the groups to use the questions on their cards to discuss as a team, these are specific to each headline.

- 4 Bring the group together and ask for volunteers to share their thoughts and what they've learned. You can suggest they keep this in mind when they read weather forecast in the media. If you have time, you can ask each group to create their own TikTok video.



Weather story cards

Weather alert: EXACT places horror 80mph winds to bury Britain in blizzards this week

National newspaper, February 2022

The Met Office has issued six yellow warnings for wind and snow affecting parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland, which will be in place for 24 hours. Temperatures across Scotland and Northern Ireland are expected to drop following rain on Wednesday, with frequent heavy and blustery snow showers arriving from the Atlantic.

Does the Met Office predict winds in the whole of the UK? Or only in some specific locations?

SHOCK WEATHER ALERT: Britain to face coldest winter in 60 YEARS and MONTHS of heavy snow

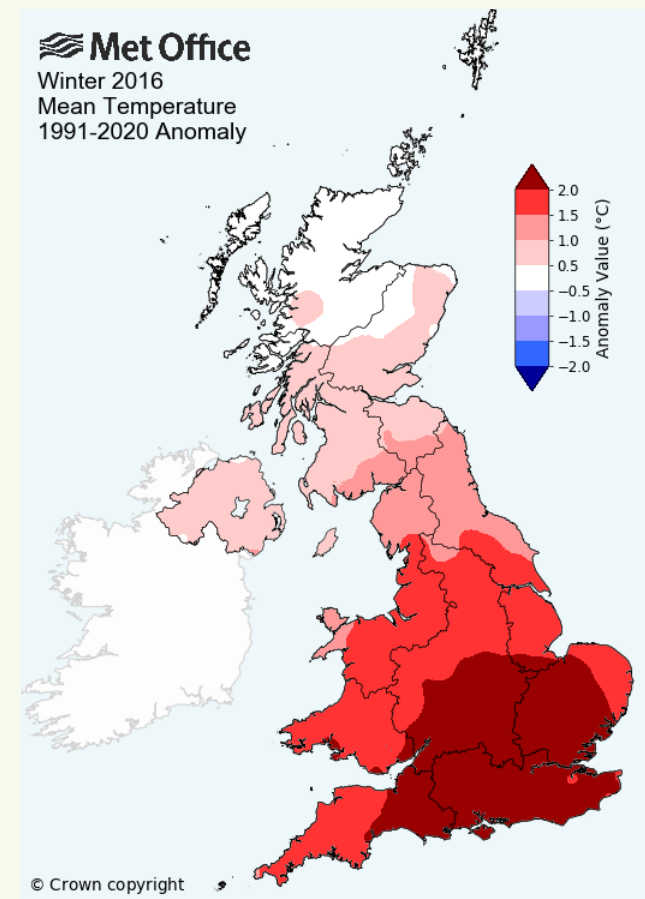
National newspaper, September 2015

The Met Office said temperatures will dip below average at the start of November. Late October and into November, places will be likely to see some rain and temperatures are likely to be around or a little below normal throughout.

Does the Met Office predict heavy snow or low temperatures?

Does the Met Office mention the winter?

Look at the map of winter 2016. Can you compare it with the headline?



Weather story cards

Snow alert ahead as weather experts predict the EXACT date it will fall

Local newspaper, January 2022

It was reported that the weather experts have predicted snow will hit the UK by February 6 as temperatures drop while the chief meteorologist for the Met Office has claimed the snow could come as soon as January 29.

Does the article give the exact date of when the snow is expected as stated in the headline?

SHOCK WEATHER WARNING: Hottest summer in 100 YEARS to hit the UK in 7 days

National newspaper, May 2016

The Met Office said there is high chance that we could have at least two to three weeks of warm to hot weather, with temperatures ranging in the mid to high 20s for some of the country.

The Met Office's three-month outlook has also come down on the side of warmer than average temperatures through until August.

Does the excerpt of the article say that it will be the 'hottest summer'?

Look at the map of the summer 2016. Can you compare it with the headline?

