Name _____ Date _____

Weather and Climate: What Is the Difference?

Directions: Read about Priya's weather record and look at the table. Then answer each question.

One Warm Day

Priya lives in a town where winters are usually cold and snowy. One week in January, Priya kept a weather record. Each school day, she wrote down the high temperature and what the sky and air were like. On Wednesday, it was warm and sunny!

Weather is what the air outside is like in one place at one time. It can be hot or cold, sunny or rainy, calm or windy. Weather can change from day to day, or even from hour to hour.

Climate is the usual pattern of weather in a place over many years. Scientists find it by studying weather records from 30 years or more. In Priya's town, the usual high temperature in January is about 30 °F.

One warm day does not change a town's climate. It is just one day of weather.

High temperature and weather in Priya's town for one school week in January

Day	High temperature (°F)	Sky and air
Monday	28	Snowy
Tuesday	31	Cloudy
Wednesday	52	Sunny
Thursday	30	Snowy
Friday	25	Windy

1. Which day had the warmest high?

A. Friday B. Monday C. Wednesday D. Tuesday

2. Use the word bank to finish the sentences about Priya's town.

Word bank
weather • climate • sunshine • season

Today it is rainy and cool in Priya's town. That is the town's _____ today. Most winters, the town gets lots of snow. That is part of its _____.

3. Is Priya's table about weather or about climate?

A. Neither, because it does not show rain

B. Climate, because it shows more than one day

C. Climate, because it lists temperatures

D. Weather, because it shows what the air was like on each of five days

4. What does Priya's table show about the weather that week?

A. It changed from day to day.

B. It was warm and sunny all week.

C. It snowed each day.

D. It stayed the same all week.

5. How much warmer was Wednesday's high than the usual January high in Priya's town?

A. About 82 degrees

B. About 52 degrees

C. About 2 degrees

D. About 22 degrees

6. Which sentence describes climate, not weather?

A. Last night was windy and cold.

B. It will be sunny at noon today.

C. Right now, it is raining hard.

D. Summers in the desert are usually hot and dry.

7. Priya's cousin lives in a town where winters are usually warm. One winter day there, the air was cold and frosty. What does this cold day tell about the cousin's town?

A. The town now has a cold climate.

B. Cold days never happen in towns with warm winters.

C. The cold day was weather, and the town still has warm winters most years.

D. The town's climate will be cold for the next 30 years.

8. What would happen if Priya wrote down her town's weather each day for 30 years?

A. She could find out what her town's weather is like most years, which is its climate.

B. She would know about only one week of weather.

C. The weather in her town would stop changing.

D. She would find that each day was just the same.