Weather
Patterns of Rainfall

Most of the earth receives enough rain to meet people's needs, but rainfall changes from place to place and from month to month. Have you ever heard the **expression**[1] "April showers bring May flowers"? In most of the United States, April is a very rainy month. The water and warmer temperatures are necessary ingredients for plants to grow in the spring.

Rainfall does follow certain **patterns.**[2] Both the time of year and the position of a country on the globe give us hints about how much rain will fall. Places around the world often have a wet season with a lot of rainfall followed by a very dry season. In the Northern Hemisphere, where the United States is located, the heaviest rainfall often happens in June and July.

Look at this sample **almanac**[3] page. It tells how much rain falls in Tokyo, Japan. Do you notice that some months are much wetter than others? These are the summer monsoon months. Monsoons are winds that blow from the ocean and bring heavy rain and wet weather!

Month	Average Rainfall (Millimeters)	Average Daily Temperature (Degrees Celsius)	
		(Low)	(High)
January	49	-3	8
February	75	-1	10
March	106	3	12
April	136	8	16
May	148	11	22
June	163	17	25
July	144	20	28
August	150	22	30
September	231	18	27
October	209	13	21
November	97	6	17
December	58	2	11

Data from the National Environment Agency of Japan

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[1] **Expression**- a phrase that has a particular meaning
[2] **Patterns**- a repeated set of actions or characteristics
[3] **Almanac**- a book published once a year with facts and statistics about a large variety of subjects

Name: _____   Date: _____

1. What is the average rainfall in Tokyo in August?
  a. 49 millimeters
  b. 150 degrees
  c. 150 millimeters
  d. 10 millimeters

2. In the hottest part of a July day in Tokyo, you would expect the temperature to be:
  a. 20 degrees Celsius
  b. 28 degrees Celsius
  c. 20 millimeters
  d. 144 degrees Celsius

3. Which is the correct order, from least rainy month to rainiest month in Tokyo?
  a. January, June, September, March
  b. January, March, September, June
  c. January, March, June, September
  d. January, September, June, March

4. Which of the following statements describes the same thing as "April showers bring May flowers"?
  a. Rainfall helps flowers grow.
  b. It rains a lot in April in Japan.
  c. All living things need water.
  d. April is the rainiest month of the year.

5. This passage is mostly about:
  a. Japan, the rainiest country.
  b. patterns in when it rains.
  c. monsoons.
  d. heat and rain.

6. What is Tokyo's weather in September as compared to January?

_____

_____

_____

7. When does it rain the most in the northern hemisphere?

_____

_____

_____

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Plants can grow _____ there is water and warmth.

      a. without
      b. including
      c. if
      d. before

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

People in Tokyo carry umbrellas in September because that's when it rains the most.

Who? people in Tokyo

(do) What? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word**: pattern: A pattern is the repeated or regular way in which something happens or is done.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

_____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 900

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The amount of rain a place gets depends on the time of year and location of the place. Most places get more rain at some times than others, as you can see by the chart in the passage.

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6. What is Tokyo's weather in September as compared to January?

> **Suggested answer:** Based on the chart, September's weather is hot and rainy. January is much cooler and drier.

7. When does it rain the most in the northern hemisphere?

> **Suggested answer**: In the northern hemisphere, it rains the most during June and July.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Plants can grow _____ there is water and warmth.

   a. without
   b. including
   c. if
   d. before

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

People in Tokyo carry umbrellas in September because that's when it rains the most.

Who? people in Tokyo

(do) What? **carry umbrellas**

When? **September**

Why? **because that's when it rains the most**

10. **Vocabulary Word**: pattern: A pattern is the repeated or regular way in which something happens or is done.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.