

## G 4.3 SEASONAL CHANGES



### G4.3.4

Let's keep a seven day journal in which we will list our observations.

Research by Philip Demicoli - St Benedict's College

## THE CLIMATE

**What does the word climate mean?**

When we talk about CLIMATE we mention natural elements like heat, cold, rain, snow or drought, which characterise the weather of a particular country over a period of several years.



Although a country's weather changes according to the season, when we talk about climate we often take into consideration the geographical position of a country and other factors related to the physical environment, such as mountains, sea, desert, forests, rivers and cold deserts.



**How do we categorise the different climates found around the world?**

There are three main types of climate:

- ❖ Climate at the Equator
- ❖ Climate in the areas between the Equator and the Poles
- ❖ Climate at the North and South Poles

### 1. The First Type: the Equator

Those countries which are close to the equator are almost always directly in the sun's rays, so they receive the same amount of heat all year round. Therefore in these countries, there are hardly any differences between one season and another.

### 2. The Second Type: the areas between the Equator and the Poles.

Those countries found above or below the equator have hot, dry summers and cold, wet winters. In these areas, the changes between the seasons are more obvious.

### 3. The Third Type: the North and South Poles

Those countries which are in the north and south poles get very little direct sunlight. The sun's rays only reach these places for a short time in summer. For this reason, they are very cold throughout the entire year and only get slightly warmer in summer.

