Rain – too much and not enough

Description: Find out as much as possible about local rainfall patterns and compare these with other localities

QCA Geography Schemes of Work reference:	National Curriculum Geography reference:	QCA ICT Schemes of Work reference:
Year 3 Unit 7: Weather around the world	1a, 2a, 2d, 2e, 3b, 4a, 4b	Year 3 Unit 3E: Email

Learning Objectives: Pupils should be taught to examine patterns of rainfall in their local area and then compare these patterns with other contrasting regional and global locations. Pupils will also be encouraged to account for similarities and variations.

Suggested activities:

Introduction: Using an atlas locate the position of the school and three other contrasting locations around the world where you might expect there to be variations in rainfall e.g. Egypt, Bangladesh, California (choose a city in each country or state). If you have a World Map wall chart the children could label this with the places you have chosen.

Main: Using the climate website in the resources below, obtain rainfall averages for each location. These will be shown as averages for each month based upon information obtained over a lot of years. This could be linked to Numeracy – How do we calculate an average? The children will need to record and/or print this data out (see data recording sheet 3b1). For your own location you will have to select the nearest city that produces results in the website search database. Once you have obtained this information the children need to display this information as raw data and as a bar chart. This information could then be added to the World Map. Once the information has been gathered and displayed the children should be encouraged to comment on similarities and differences between each set of data.

Resources:
Atlas or http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html world maps
Website: http://www.worldclimate.com/ world climate data
ICT: Internet connection, data-handling package capable of displaying results as bar charts.

Extension activities:

Children could set up a rainfall station and collect information as to the amount of rainfall over a specific month. This could then be averaged and compared the data obtained from the website for their chosen month. Is it the same value? Why might there be a difference? Good teaching point for work on sampling!

Learning outcomes:
- Research and record evidence to answer their own questions and/or those set by the teacher.
- Obtain information about a locality using ICT
- Understand that weather conditions vary from place to place