

India's climate - Drawing climate graphs

In this activity, we will learn how to read and draw climate graphs. We will learn about the climate in India.

Climate is the average condition of the atmosphere taken over a period of time. It includes information on a variety of different aspects including rainfall and temperature .

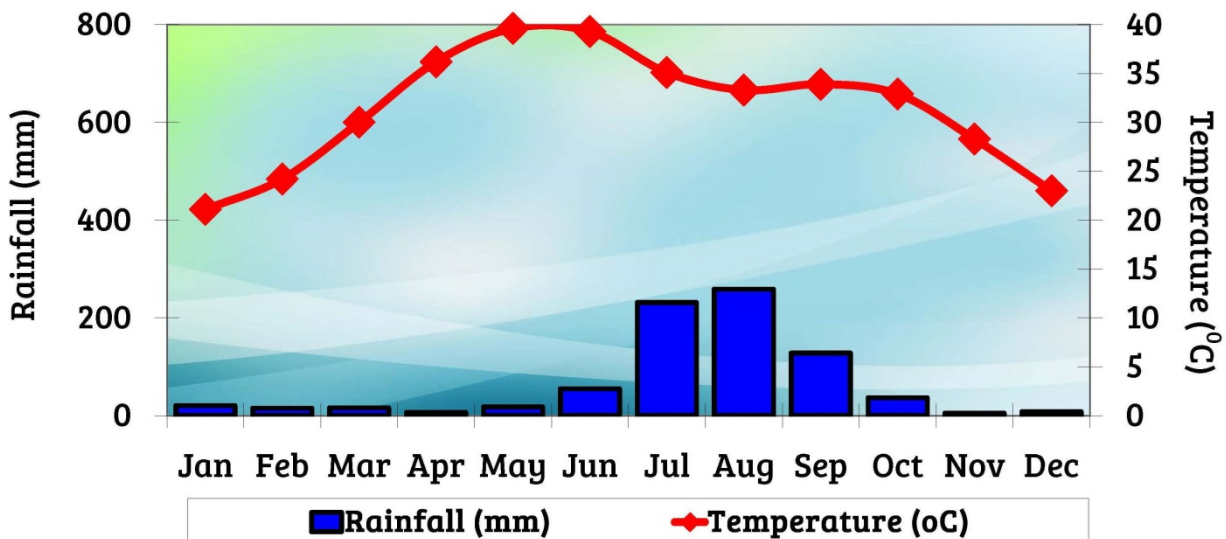
Climate graphs show two types of information in the same graph. The most frequently depicted information shown is rainfall and temperature. The temperature shown is the average daily high and it is measured in centigrade or Celsius. The rainfall is measured in millimetres.

Reading climate graphs can be confusing in that it has two scales. One scale depicts temperature and the other scale depicts rainfall. It is important to use the correct one when reading information from a climate graph.

Practical applications of climate graphs can include helping people decide when the best time to go on holiday is. Also, farmers can use them to work out the optimum time to plant crops.

Question: Can you read this climate graph below? Which month is the hottest? Coldest? Wettest? Etc..

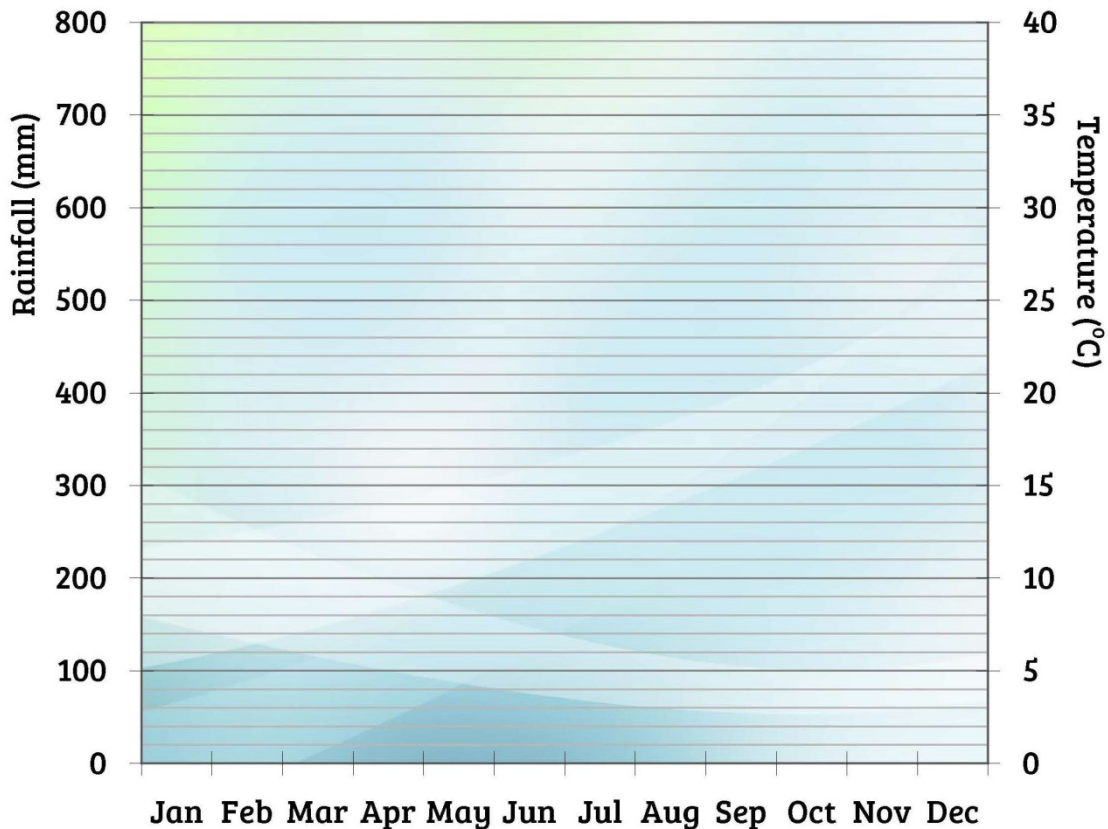
Climate Graph for Delhi, India



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high in °C	21	24	30	36	40	39	35	33	34	33	28	23
Average rain in mm	20	15	16	7	18	55	232	259	128	36	5	8

- 1 Look at blank climate graph of Mumbai below. Using the climate data provided, complete the climate graph for Mumbai using a red line to indicate the temperature and blue bars to indicate rainfall.

Climate Graph for Mumbai, India

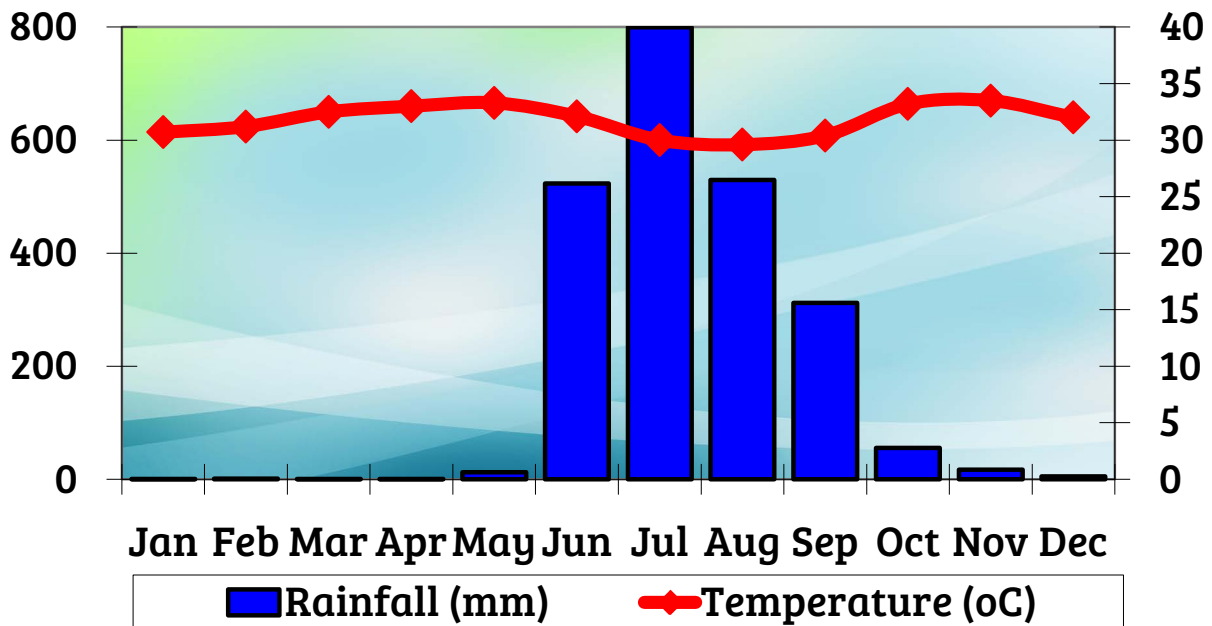


■ Rainfall mm ◆ Temperature

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high in °C	31	31	33	33	33	32	30	30	30	33	34	32
Average rain in mm	1	1	0	1	13	523	800	530	312	56	17	5

- 2 Now that you have completed your climate graph, describe the rainfall patterns and temperature patterns that you can see. Identify three different patterns in your graph.
- 3 Compare the climate graph that you have made of Mumbai to the one shown for Delhi. Describe the similarities and differences you see.
- 4 Looking at your climate graph of Delhi, choose when you think the best time to visit would be. Give reasons for your answers.

Answers



- 2 We can see from our graph that it is **hot all year round** in Mumbai **with little variation in temperature throughout the year**.

Looking at the rainfall, it is clear to see that there is a **long dry spell from November to May**. This is followed **four months of very heavy rain**. This is called the **monsoon** period.

- 3 **Similarities** between the two climate graphs include the fact that **both climates have rainy seasons and dry seasons at roughly the same time of the year**.

Differences can be seen in the **temperature ranges**. Delhi and Mumbai are both hot for most/all of the year, however, Delhi's temperatures vary from 21°C to 40°C whereas Mumbai's temperatures vary from 30°C to 34°C.

- 4 **Answers may vary**, any time of the year can be selected as long as choices can be justified.

Answers