

# SEASONAL WEATHER CONDITIONS

## differentiated passages



### Albuquerque International Balloon Festival Questions

1. Use the grid below to create a graph representing average wind speed in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



don't usually fly in the rain. The precipitation isn't good for the fabric. isn't a good idea either. It's hard to see. Hot temperatures ruin a ride,

Average Monthly Weather  
Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
8.5	9.4	9.1	8	6.4	5.8	6.4	7	6.6	6.4
64°F	72°F	81°F	92°F	93°F	90°F	84°F	72°F	59°F	50°F
0.35	0.43	0.39	0.43	1.73	1.26	0.98	0.47	0.63	0.71
17%	16%	12%	10%	17%	15%	13%	11%	13%	20%

Source: NOAA, weather-us.com, and climate-data.org)

Albuquerque International Balloon Festival always hopes for good weather. Events  
Fiesta is nine days long, though. Guests always have a chance of

### Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is in October. It takes place at Balloon Fiesta Park in New Mexico. About 600 balloons come here. Hundreds of thousands of guests visit. Even more people watch from outside the park. People also see it on television.



The first Albuquerque Balloon Festival idea came while planning a party. The party was for a local news channel. The news channel called a balloon pilot. They put together the largest balloon race ever. Twenty-one balloons were invited. A change in weather brought a storm to New Mexico. Only 13 balloons came instead. It was still a fun time. The festival grew to the size it is today.



the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Weather is an important part of ballooning. Pilots check the weather before a flight. Wind speeds affect flying. Balloons move in the same direction as the wind, too. Light winds of 4-6 miles per hour are best. Winds higher than 10 miles per hour aren't safe. They can stop a flight. They make the balloon hard to fill. Strong winds can also take the balloon off its path.



# ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	1185L-1385L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."





# Seasonal Weather Conditions

3rd grade

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Each passage set includes two differentiated passages on a third-grade level (one at the beginning of the band, one towards the end) and a question set geared towards comprehension and science mastery. The first question is differentiated to include a fill-in-the-blank diagram (lower complexity) or an open-ended diagram (higher complexity).

# How to Use This Resource

This resource was created with the NGSS Science Standards in mind. It includes seven differentiated passages aligned to the following standard:

## ***3-ESS2-1: Seasonal Weather Conditions***

Represent data in tables and graphical displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season. (Patterns)

**Clarification Statement:** Examples of data could include average temperature, precipitation, and wind direction.

**Assessment Boundary:** Assessment of graphical displays is limited to pictographs and bar graphs. Assessment does not include climate change.

**Here are some suggestions for using these passages:**

- Use as independent work after you have taught an overview of this standard. Assign the different levels based on the passage students can read and comprehend independently.
- Use as a reading center to reinforce key comprehension and science concepts at the same time!
- Use as a homework or review packet.
- Use as an intervention for students who need to revisit science concepts.



# The New York City Marathon

Many people enjoy running. Runners may enter a **marathon**. A marathon is a running race. It covers a distance of 26 miles and 385 yards. This race is not run on a track. It's run on city streets instead. The New York City Marathon is run in the United States. This race is held every November.



New York City

The first New York City Marathon was held in 1970. It only cost \$1 to enter. The route took runners through Manhattan's Central Park. This marathon had grown too big for the park by 1976. It was moved to begin at Staten Island and end in Manhattan. The New York City Marathon has been run almost every year. It has only been cancelled twice. Hurricane Sandy shut it down in 2012. COVID-19 stopped it in 2020.



Runners in the New York City Marathon

Many big moments have happened in this marathon. People have set records for running in it. The marathon made it onto television in 1981. The first wheelchair division was added in 2000. The number of finishers was more than 50,000 in 2013.

Weather plays a part in a marathon. Sunny and dry weather is best. **Temperatures** between 50°F and 60°F are perfect. The New York City Marathon was first run in September. It was then moved to October. Early November finally became the right time. That month had less high **humidity**. This keeps athletes from running in unsafe temperatures.

Average Monthly Weather  
New York City, New York, United States

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average High Temp in °F	39°F	43°F	52°F	64°F	72°F	80°F	84°F	84°F	76°F	64°F	55°F	44°F
Average Rainfall in inches	3.8	3.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.2
Average Snowfall in inches	8.4	9.2	4.1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.5	3.9

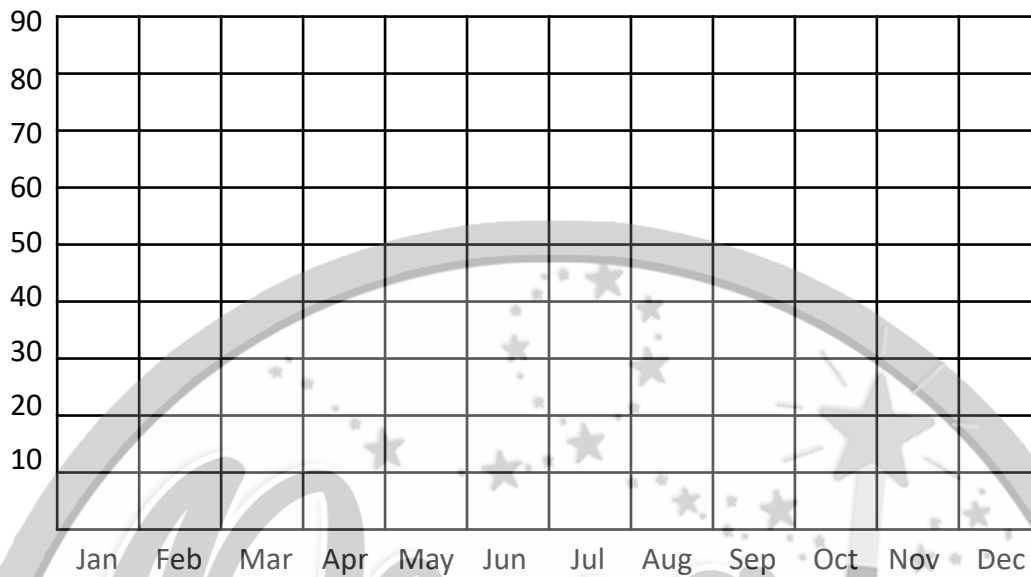
(Source: NOAA)

The New York City Marathon has been run in **precipitation**. There have even been race days with gusty winds. The runners won't be stopped by the weather, though. They've got their eyes on the finish line.

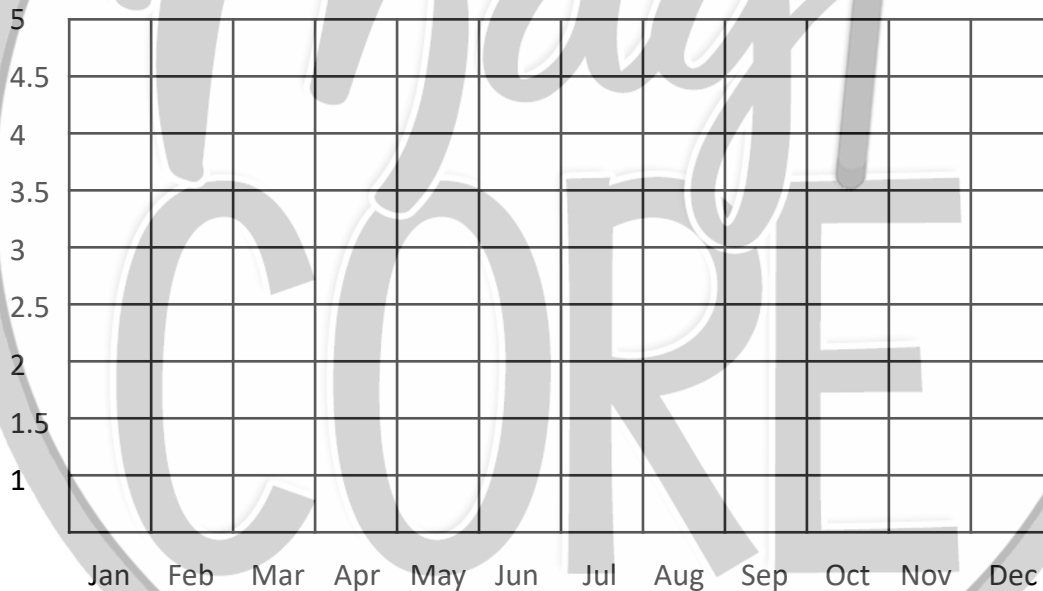


# New York City Marathon Questions

1. Use the grid below to create a graph representing average high temperature in New York City.



2. Use the grid below to create a graph representing average rainfall (in inches) in New York City.



3. Based on your graphs, is November the best choice for the New York City Marathon? Why or why not? Use evidence from your graphs.

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4. If the New York City Marathon had to be moved, which month would you suggest it be moved to? Use evidence from your graphs.

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# Uttarayan International Kite Festival

*Uttarayan* means “when the sun starts its northward journey.” It marks the end of the winter **season** for India. The sun returns to warm the northern **hemisphere**. Uttarayan is celebrated on January 14<sup>th</sup> with a *patang*, or kite-flying, festival in India. Gujarat, a state in northwestern India, is known for its Uttarayan International Kite Festival. This festival began in 1989.



Children and adults get involved in the kite festival. After winter, people believe the bright sunshine of Uttarayan brings good health. The festival is a great way to enjoy the weather outside. Special foods such as *laddu* are served. Laddu is a ball-shaped sweet made from flour, sugar, and shortening. Families buy or make their own kites. Kite flying starts early in the morning and goes into the night. This festival is a time for socializing. People gather on the flat roofs of houses and buildings. They have friendly kite competitions. The skies are full of kites in every color, every size, and every shape. The festival brings master kite flyers from all over the world. At night, bright white kites and thousands of paper lanterns fill the dark sky.

Each Uttarayan season, more than 10 million kites are sold in Ahmedabad, Gujarat's largest city. Kites like big, open spaces and wind for flying. When the wind has to go around objects in its path, such as buildings and trees, it gets bumpy, or **turbulent**. This kind of wind isn't good for flying kites. The amount of wind you need depends on the kite you have. Heavy



kites need more wind. Other kites are designed for light wind. Most kites need average **wind speeds** between 4 and 10 miles per hour. Kites can often be adjusted for different wind conditions. An experienced kite flyer always watches the wind.

Average Monthly Weather  
Gujarat, India

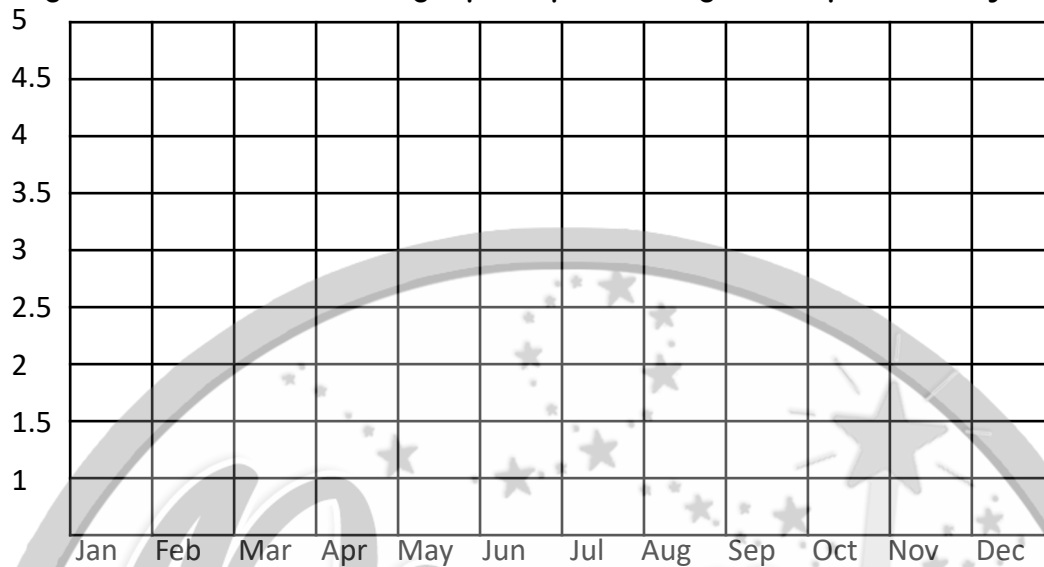
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Wind Speed in miles per hour	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.8	4.5	4.7	4.4	3.9	2.7	1.7	1.7	2.0
Average Temp in °F	69°F	73°F	81°F	88°F	91°F	89°F	83°F	81°F	82°F	82°F	77°F	71°F
Average Precipitation in inches	0	0	0	0	0	2.9	12.1	9.5	4.3	0.7	0.1	0
Average Hours of Sun	9.7	10.2	10.8	11.4	11.3	9.5	7.1	6.2	8.0	10.1	9.9	9.6

(Source: [climate-data.org](http://climate-data.org))

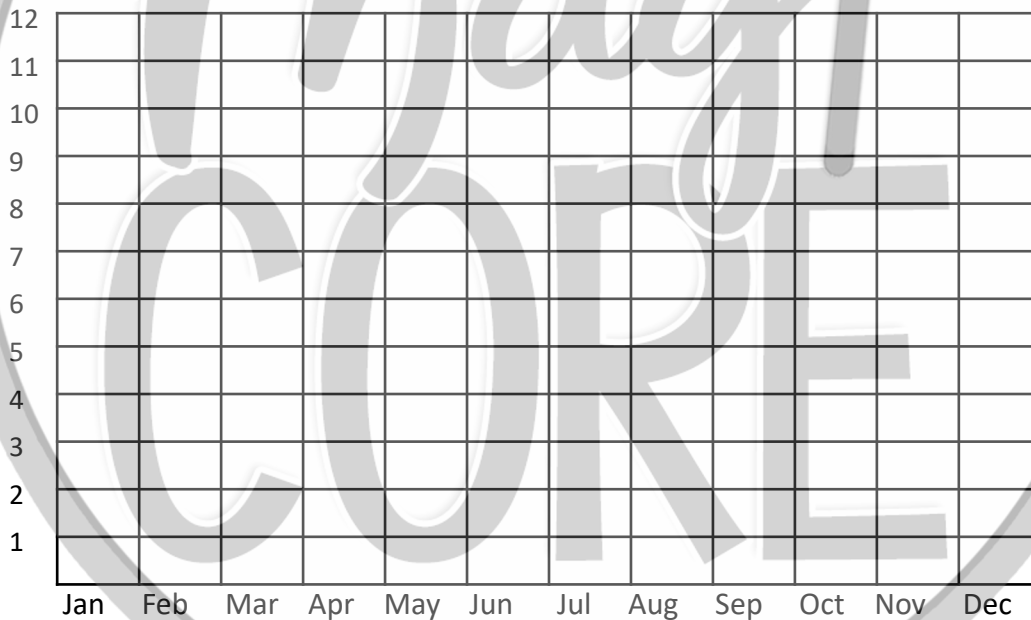
The Uttarayan International Kite Festival is a happy time for Indians. It brings people together to have fun outdoors as the season changes.

# Uttarayan International Kite Festival Questions

1. Use the grid below to create a graph representing wind speed in Gujarat, India.



2. Use the grid below to create a graph representing average rainfall (in inches) in Gujarat, India.



3. Based on your graphs, why do you think they picked January 14<sup>th</sup> for the kite festival? Use evidence from your graphs.

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4. If the Uttarayan Kite Festival had to be moved, would August be a good choice for the festival? Use evidence from your graphs.

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# Tour de France

The Tour de France is over 100 years old. The first Tour de France took place in 1903. It is the world's longest cycle race. Athletes travel over 2,200 miles. The race is 23 days long. It happens in July. The route is a little different each year. The race doesn't just take place in France, either. It has also traveled through nearby countries. It always ends in Paris, France.



Each day of the Tour de France is called a "stage." The stages can last up to 6 hours. There is a total of 21 stages. Riders get two days to rest. The race goes over flat land. It also goes through mountains. Some parts of the race are downhill. Riders move fast on those parts. Others are hard climbs for miles. The winner of the Tour de France has the fastest time for all the stages together.

Weather affects the Tour de France. Some of the start locations are not close. The weather could change along the route. Rain is the biggest threat. This **precipitation** can make roads slick. That is dangerous for cyclists. Hot, **humid** weather makes pedaling up a mountain a struggle. **Crosswinds** can separate teammates.

Average Monthly Weather

Paris, France

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Wind Speed in miles per hour	11.5	11.2	10.7	9.9	9.1	8.7	8.4	8.1	8.9	9.8	10.3	11.1
Average High Temp in °F	46°F	48°F	55°F	62°F	68°F	74°F	78°F	78°F	71°F	63°F	52°F	47°F
Average Rainfall in inches	2.2	2	2.1	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	2	2.6	2.5	2.8
Average Humidity %	85%	81%	76%	71%	71%	68%	65%	66%	71%	79%	86%	86%

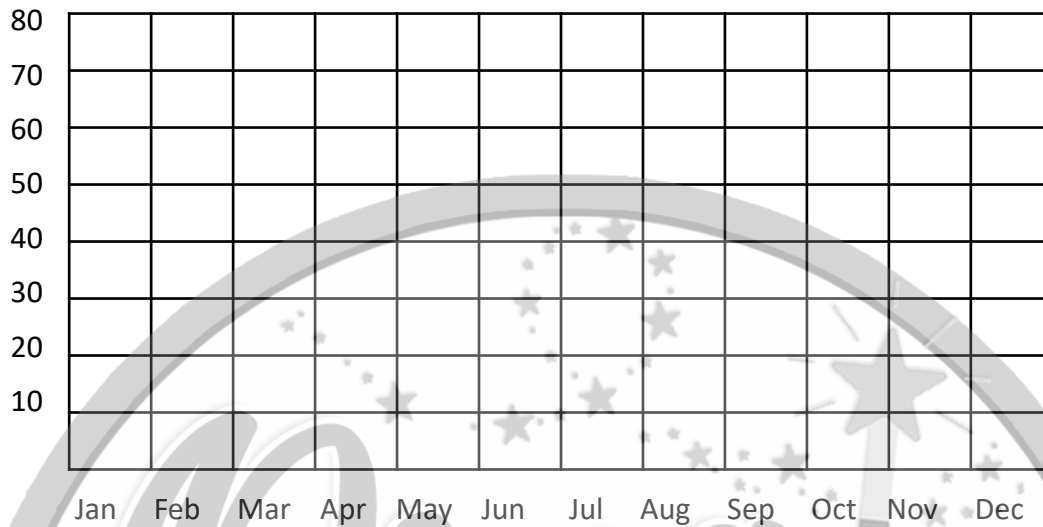
(Source: NOAA and climate-data.org)

Riding in the Tour de France takes strength. It is one of the most difficult athletic events in the world. Cyclists push their bodies to win.

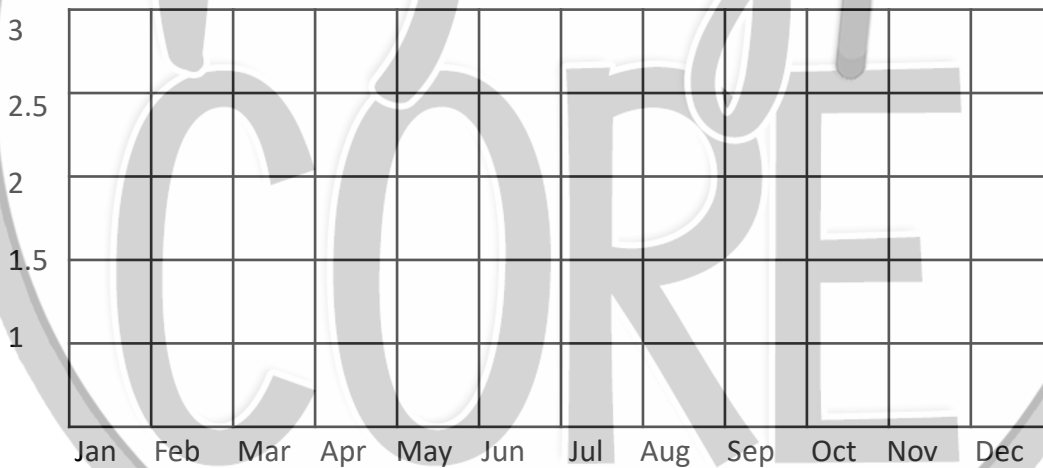


# Tour de France Questions

1. Use the grid below to create a graph representing average high temperature in Paris, France.



2. Use the grid below to create a graph representing average rainfall (in inches) in Paris, France.



3. Based on your graphs, why do you think they picked July for the Tour de France? Use evidence from your graphs.

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4. If the Tour de France had to be moved, would September be a good month to move it to? Use evidence from your graphs.

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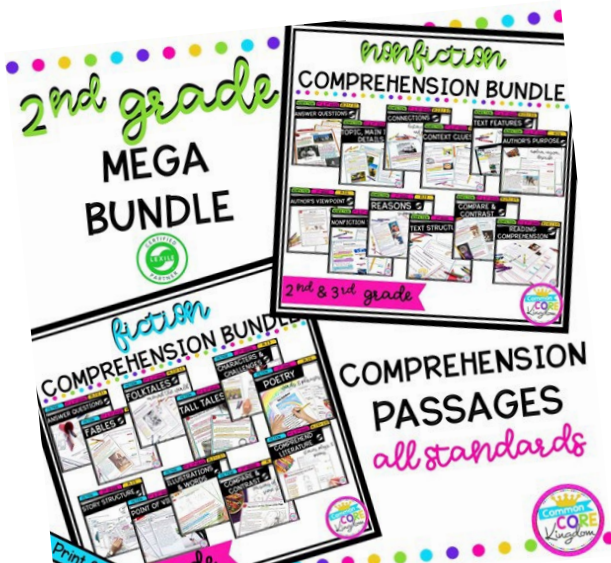


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