



Name: _____

Section: _____

Date: _____

UNDERSTANDING SEASONALITY IN THE CLOUD FOREST

Instructions: Complete Part 1 on your own. When you meet with your partner, give that person the “data” you created in exchange for a copy of the “data” s/he created. Use these “data” to complete Part 2. When both partners are done with Parts 2, meet with each other and complete Part 3 together.

Part 1: Create a “data” set

Picture a region of the Earth that experiences seasons. It can be a region that you know exists, or you can imagine a fictitious one.

(1) What is the real or fictitious name of your region? _____

(2) How many seasons does this region experience each year? _____

(3) Name these seasons.

(4) Describe the typical meteorological conditions for each season.

Next you need to create a set of “data” about the temperature and precipitation in this area. (“Data” is in quotes because these are not true data, they are simply numbers you made up for this activity.) *These “data” should reflect the seasonal trends that you described above.* This means that if July and August are a cold and rainy time of year in the region you selected, the “data” for temperature should reflect low temperatures and the precipitation levels should be high. Use the table provided on the next page to organize your “data”. You are going to lend this table to a partner, so remember to put your name at the top of the page.



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Month	Average Temperature (° C)	Average Precipitation (cm)
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		

Part 2: Analyze your partner’s “data”

Trade “data” sets with a partner. Use the new “data” sets that you received from your partner to make two graphs: temperature vs. month and precipitation vs. month. Be sure to give each graph a title and label your axes. It is best to use the same scale for your date (x-axis) on both graphs so that they will be easier to compare.



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Once you have completed your graphs, use the graphs and your knowledge of seasons to answer the following questions. Later on you will have a chance to meet with your partner to check your answers!

(1) How many seasons does this region experience each year? _____

(2) What patterns or trends did you use to identify these seasons?

(3) Name these seasons.

(4) Describe the typical meteorological conditions for each season.

Part 3: Reconvene and discuss

Meet with your partner once more. Share your graphs and your answers to the questions from Part 2, which are based on the “data” your partner created. Your partner should listen carefully and share his/her answers from Part 1 to see if your responses match. Discuss anything your answers have in common as well as any areas in which they differ. Next, switch roles so that your partner can share the work s/he did using your “data” set and you can check it against your responses to the questions in Part 1.