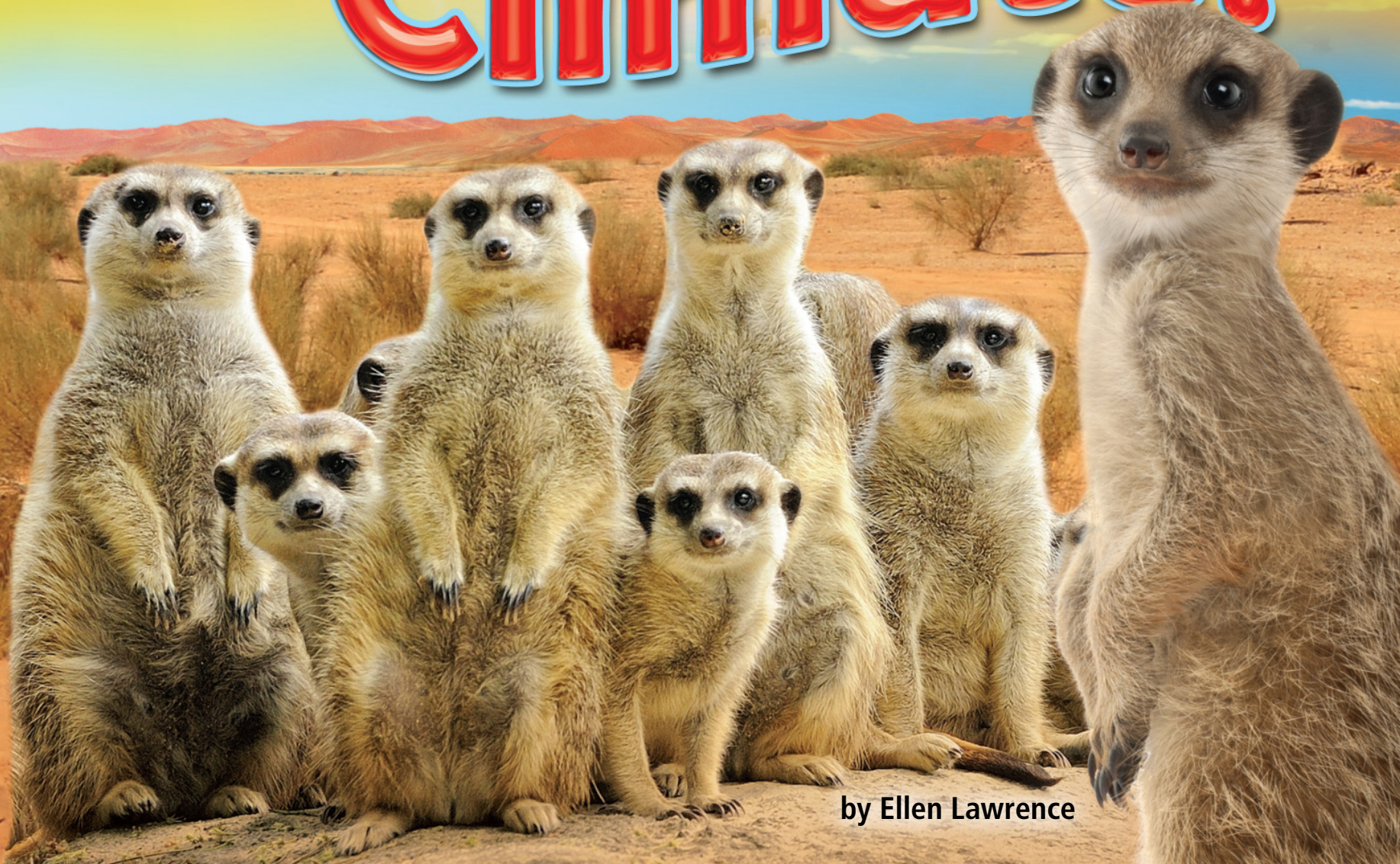




What Is Climate?



by Ellen Lawrence

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What Is Climate?

by Ellen Lawrence

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Welcome to Death Valley!



It is summer in Death Valley, California.

There has been no rain for months and it is very hot.

This weather is not unusual, however.

Death Valley is part of a **desert**.

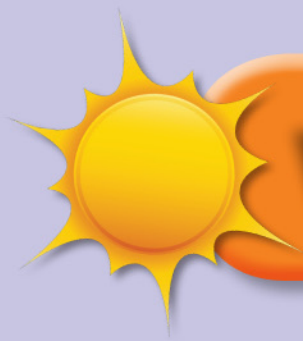
Its climate has been hot and dry for thousands of years.



A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are several large, green, bushy plants and some smaller, dry, yellowish shrubs. Behind them, a series of large, smooth sand dunes stretch across the middle ground. In the background, a range of rugged, blue-toned mountains rises against a clear sky. The overall scene is arid and desolate.

Death Valley

Some parts of Death Valley get only about two inches (5 cm) of rain in a whole year!



Weather and Climate



So is **weather** the same thing as climate?

No, weather is what happens in one place on a single day, or over a few days or weeks.

When it rains or snows, people say, "The weather is wet."

When it is very warm outside, people say, "The weather is hot."

Climate, on the other hand, is the type of weather a place has over 30 or more years.

For example, people say, "Death Valley has a desert climate."

Temperature—how hot or cold it is outside—is measured with a thermometer. On a cold winter day, a thermometer might show a temperature of 32°F (0°C). On a hot summer day, it might show 86°F (30°C).



a cold day



a hot day

cold, snowy weather



**hot, sunny
weather**



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Read More

Kalman, Bobbie, and Kelley MacAulay. *Changing Seasons*. New York: Crabtree Publishing (2005).

Murphy, Julie. *Desert Animal Adaptations*. Mankato, MN: Capstone (2012).

Learn More Online

To learn more about the climate, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/WeatherWise

About the Author

Ellen Lawrence lives in the United Kingdom. Her favorite books to write are those about animals and nature. In fact, the first book Ellen bought for herself, when she was six years old, was the story of a gorilla named Patty Cake that was born in New York's Central Park Zoo.

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What Is Climate?

Climate is the weather a place usually has year after year. Scientists study temperature and precipitation records over 30 or more years to determine an area's climate. Such records show, for example, that Death Valley in California has a desert climate. Most of the time, it gets little rain and has hot temperatures. Read *What Is Climate?* to learn about four other kinds of climates. Then figure out which kind of climate you live in! Forecast for this book: long-range fun.

**How Are Rain, Snow,
and Hail Alike?**

What Are Clouds?

What Is Climate?

**What Is the
Water Cycle?**

What Is Weather?



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