



The Wet and Dry! Year 1 Science at Home

You can help! Your child is learning about how the weather and seasons change. You can help them notice these changes every single day!

Why are we learning this? We live the seasons every year

Up here in the Top End, the seasons are dramatic and shape everything about daily life. The wet season floods the rivers and makes the country green. The dry season brings cool nights and clear skies. First Nations peoples have deep knowledge of these seasonal patterns — knowing when certain plants flower, when fish spawn, and when the wind changes direction. This knowledge has been passed down for thousands of years. When your child learns about seasonal and daily changes, they are connecting to the land they live on.

My child will learn to:

✓ Describe daily changes

Talk about how the weather changes from morning to afternoon.

✓ Describe seasonal changes

Describe how the wet and dry seasons are different.

✓ See how seasons affect life

Notice how plants, animals and people change their behaviour each season.

✓ Use patterns to predict

Use what they know about seasons to guess what will happen next.

Big ideas to know:

Daily changes

Every day, the temperature changes — cooler in the morning, hotter at midday, cooling in the evening. The sky changes too — clouds build up in the afternoon during the build-up.

Wet season

Heavy rain, flooding rivers, green country, thunderstorms. Many animals breed in the wet season.

Dry season

No rain for months, cooler nights, clear skies. Country dries out. This is when many families go fishing and hunting.

Seasons in the Northern Top End

Wet Season



Heavy rain, rivers flood,
Plants grow fast,
Thunderstorms

Build-up



Hot & humid,
Stormy cloud formations,
Animals get restless

Dry Season



No rain, sunny days,
Country dries out

Late Dry



Winds pick up,
Bushfire season,
Animals seek water



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How seasons affect everyday life up here

Season	What the weather is like	How it affects us
Wet season (Nov-Apr)	Heavy rain, hot and humid, thunderstorms, cyclones possible	Roads may flood, stay home more, lots of greenery, mosquitoes
Build-up (Sep-Nov)	Hot, humid, stormy afternoons, unsettled	Very hot, feel sticky, afternoon storms, wildlife getting active
Dry season (May-Aug)	No rain, cool nights, sunny clear days	Great for outdoor activities, fishing, bush trips, campfires
Late dry (Aug-Sep)	Windy, hot again, landscape brown and dry	Bushfire risk increases, water sources shrink

Think Like a Scientist — Weather Watcher

Every morning for one week, go outside and observe the sky and temperature. Talk about what you notice. Record it in a simple drawing or photo.

Ask: "Is today hotter or cooler than yesterday? What does the sky look like? Can you predict what the afternoon will be like?"

You will need: (Materials)

- Paper and pencil or crayons
- Simple diary or notebook
- Phone or camera (optional)
- Outdoor space

What to observe:

1. Temperature — hot, warm, cool or cold?
2. Clouds — any clouds? What do they look like?
3. Wind — is there a breeze? Which direction?
4. Sounds — can you hear frogs? Birds? Rain?
5. Plants — are they green and growing or brown and dry?

Questions to ask your child

1. Is it hotter or cooler this morning than yesterday?
2. What season do you think it is right now? How do you know?
3. What animals do you see more of in the wet season? What about the dry?
4. What things do we do differently in the wet season vs the dry season?

5. How do you know a storm is coming? What do you notice first?
6. Why do some animals move or migrate when the seasons change?
7. How do First Nations people use the seasons to know when to find certain food?

Keep a simple weather diary for a week using drawings. Even very young children can record sunshine, clouds and rain with pictures!

Key words to know:

Season	A time of year with its own type of weather — up here we have wet and dry seasons
Daily change	How the weather or temperature changes from morning to night each day
Wet season	The time of year when it rains heavily — roughly November to April in the Top End
Dry season	The time of year with no rain — roughly May to September
Predict	To make a smart guess about what will happen next based on patterns you have noticed
Pattern	Something that repeats in the same order or way
Temperature	How hot or cold something is

Key words to look up

Season · Daily change · Wet season · Dry season · Predict · Pattern · Temperature

What school will check

Your child needs to describe daily and seasonal changes and explain how these changes affect everyday life for plants, animals and people.

Try it at home!

Step outside at the same time every morning for 5 days. Ask: is it the same temperature? The same sky? Draw what you see. What pattern do you notice?