Geography in the News 28 (2019/20)
**Wider reading in Geography**

Geography in the News this week explores the UK’s sunniest spring since records began.

******https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52849367

TinyURL: <https://tinyurl.com/UKspring2020>

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**Define It**

To begin with, it will be very useful to know what the following terms mean. Write a definition for each:

* **Drought conditions**
* **Hosepipe ban**
* **Met Office**
* **Jet Stream**
* **High pressure system**
* **Extreme weather events**
* **Unprecedented**

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**The Facts**

Complete the questions below or head over to [www.internetgeography.net/gitn28/](http://www.internetgeography.net/gitn28/) to complete the questions as a multiple-choice quiz.

1. The UK has experienced its sunniest spring since records began. When did these records begin?
2. May 2020 is set to be the driest for how many years?
3. True or false? Some areas are already warning of drought conditions despite exceptionally wet weather and flooding earlier in the year.
4. How many springs on record have topped 500 hours of sunshine?
5. By Wednesday 27th May 2020, how many hours of sunshine had the UK experienced?
6. Identify the likely driest place in May.
7. The Jet Stream has been anchored to the north of the UK for most of May. What type of pressure has been allowed to build?
8. What do some scientists believe is the cause of the UK’s stalled weather patterns?
9. What could the warming that is taking place in the Arctic lead to in the future?
10. Why is the spring weather good news for strawberry farmers?

Did the quiz online? What was your score? /10

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**The Map**

The map on the right is a **choropleth map**. A choropleth map shows linked data (as opposed to data from different categories) as colours. It shows the amount of rainfall across the UK as a percentage of average rainfall between 1981 to 2010. So, for example, is an area is shaded dark brown it means that it received less than 20% of the average amount of rainfall that feel between 1981 and 2010. If an area is shaded dark brown, then we can conclude it received well-below average rainfall for May 2020.

Areas shaded dark blue have received over 200% of the average amount of rainfall that fell between 1981 and 2010. This means that they have experienced twice as much rainfall than average.

Using the map above, describe rainfall patterns across the UK for May 2020.

There is advice on describing patterns on chloropleth maps here: <https://www.internetgeography.net/a-technique-for-graph-interpretation-exam-questions-using-tea/>

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**The Impacts**

What are the impacts of drier springs?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Positive Impacts** | **Negative Impacts** |
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**The Links**

[**https://www.internetgeography.net/homework/synoptic-links-in-geography/**](https://www.internetgeography.net/homework/synoptic-links-in-geography/)

How does this Geography in the News link to what you have previously studied in geography and/or what you already know? How does this link to other aspects of geography?

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**The Next Level**

Explain why the UK experiences warm weather when the Jet Stream lies to the north of the UK.
 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-26070494/how-jet-stream-affects-uk-weather>