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# WEATHER FUN FACTS

Here are some amazing weather facts. Read them and then solve the crossword.

5,000 million million tonnes of rain falls to **Earth** in a year



**Most rainbows only last for a few minutes**

The fastest winds are those inside a **tornado**



The strongest wind ever was 317km/hour at **Mt Washington, USA**

The windiest place on earth is **Port Martin in Antarctica**

The biggest clouds are **cumulonimbus**. One **cloud** can be nearly 10 kilometres high



Snow and **ice** permanently cover about 12% of the **Earth's surface**

**Antarctica is always very cold**. -129° was recorded there **once**. That's the **lowest temperature ever**

98% of Antarctica is covered by ice all the time



**Africa is the hottest continent**

It rains less in Antarctica than any other continent

A light fall of snow is called a **flurry**



Snow flakes are six-sided. No two snow flakes are the same

The **Sahara Desert**, one of the world's driest sandy places, used to have rivers and swamps and lots of wildlife

Mount Wai'ale'ale on Kauai in Hawaii has the most number of rainy days per year – up to 350 days.



**Precipitation is any water falling from a cloud to the ground including, rain, drizzle, hail and snow**

**Sleet** is snow that has started to melt as it falls

**Hail is frozen rain from cumulonimbus clouds**

The largest hailstone fell in Bangladesh. It weighed one kilo



Thousands of **thunderstorms** occur in the world every day

When clouds are very low and touch the land it is called a **whiteout**

**Raindrops are round**



A lightning flash lasts about a quarter of a second

The **Atacama Desert in Chile and Wadi Halfa in Sudan** are the driest places on Earth



We measure temperature in **degrees Celsius**, named after a Swedish scientist, **Anders Celsius**

**Lightning can be 30,000 degrees Celsius. That's hot!**

A **blizzard** is a very cold wild **wind full of snow**



**Cirrus clouds are light and feathery, cumulus clouds are woolly and heavy with rain**



**Cyclone, hurricane and typhoon** are all names for a violent tropical storm

**Cyclones rotate clockwise in the southern hemisphere and anti-clockwise in the northern hemisphere**

It takes about a million cloud droplets to make one drop of rain

## CROSSWORD

You'll find the answers to the crossword underlined in the text

### ACROSS

- Our planet (5)
- Snow that has started to melt (The answer rhymes with feet) (5)
- Frozen water (3)
- Very cool (4)
- Another name for a cyclone or hurricane (7)
- Moving air. (It might blow your hat off!) (4)

### DOWN

- Icy cold (like things in your freezer) (6)
- Very warm (3)
- Dry sandy place such as the Sahara (6)
- This is fluffy and white and rain falls from it especially if it's a cumulus (5)
- Block of ice that falls from the sky (4)



## SOLUTION

Write the letters from the shaded squares into the spaces.