



**Can You Believe
It's True?**

**True Facts on
WEATHER**

Kim Thompson



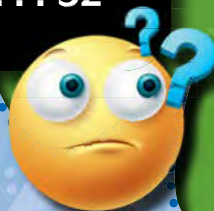
**Crabtree
Branches**

Table of Contents

Hot and Cold	4
Wet and Dry	8
Snow and Ice	12
Of the Ocean	16
Across the Sky	22
Along the Land	26
Glossary	30
Index	31
Websites to Visit	31
About the Author	32

Look outside.
What's the weather
like today? Does it
seem kind of normal?

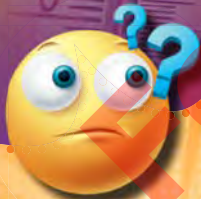
Don't get too comfortable.
It could change into something
wacky, like giant hail or UFO-
shaped clouds. You never know!
Keep reading and be prepared
by learning some weird
weather facts.



Hot and Cold

Are you basking in the sunshine? Or shivering in the shade? It all depends on what the **thermometer** says.

Heat waves can bend train tracks and melt roads. Scorching temperatures can prevent airplanes from reaching takeoff speeds.



What can extreme heat do to grapes on the vine?

Turn them into raisins!





Death Valley, California, may be the hottest place on Earth. In 1913, the air temperature there was 134 degrees Fahrenheit (56.7 degrees Celsius).





Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth. In 2010, the temperature at Dome Fuji reached -135.8 degrees Fahrenheit (-93.2 degrees Celsius).

For Review Only

Water vapor in Antarctica freezes into tiny ice crystals that hover near the ground. When sunlight hits this “diamond dust,” it sparkles like jewels.

Wet and Dry

Precipitation makes the difference between lush rain forests and parched deserts.

Mawsynram, India, may be the wettest place in the world. It gets 467 inches (1,186 cm) of rain each year.



The word *petrichor* means the smell of rain.

It comes from the ancient Greek words *petra* (“rock”) and *ichor* (“the blood of the gods”).



Monsoon winds cool as they move over nearby hills, creating daily downpours in Mawsynram.