Primary Science Reading Comprehension – (Worksheet 8)

Read the scientific article below and circle the letter of the correct answers to the questions about it.

Understanding Weather

Weather is the daily atmospheric conditions at a particular location. Weather consists of many factors including: temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, sunny or cloudy, air pressure, and precipitation (rain, snow). Weather is different from climate. Climate is the usual average weather at a particular location over a long period of time (usually 30 years). The weather changes daily due to wind and storms. Wind is constantly moving different air masses around in the atmosphere. These air masses which accumulate heat and moisture sometimes clash resulting in precipitation and storms. The weather is also affected by seasonal changes. The four seasons (spring, summer, fall, and winter) are caused by changes in our Sun’s angle throughout the year. Our planet Earth is tilted on its axis relative to the Sun. When your particular hemisphere of the Earth is tilted toward the Sun, you experience summer. When your particular hemisphere of the Earth is tilted away from the Sun, you experience winter. Scientists who study and predict the weather are called meteorologists. Meteorologists use scientific instruments such as: barometers (air pressure), anemometers (wind speed), wind vanes (wind direction), and rain gauges (amount of rainfall) to predict (forecast) and determine the weather.

1. What is weather?  
   a. The average rainfall for a particular location  
   b. The average temperature for a particular location  
   c. Daily atmospheric conditions at a particular location

2. What is precipitation?  
   a. Rain, sleet, and snow  
   b. Frost  
   c. Fog

3. The seasons are caused by?  
   a. The distance of the Earth from the Sun  
   b. The tilt of the Earth’s axis relative to the Sun  
   c. The temperature and direction of the jet stream

4. How does climate differ from weather?  
   a. Climate is the average weather over 30 years  
   b. Climate covers a bigger area than weather  
   c. Climate never changes, weather does

5. Storms and precipitation are caused by:  
   a. Too much moisture in the air  
   b. Sudden changes in air temperature  
   c. The clashing of different types of air masses
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