

3. Climate of Port Campbell area

Aim

This activity makes students aware of the climatic conditions of Port Campbell and its role in the creation of this striking landscape.

Materials

- Resource sheet: Climate of Port Campbell area.
- Graph paper.

Activities

1. Look at the climate table of temperatures and rainfall for Port Campbell.
2. Create a bar graph for rainfall and a line graph for temperature for the park area. Have a clear title for each graph and check each axis is clearly labelled.
3. Which is the month of highest and lowest precipitation? Which months have the highest and lowest temperature? What is the temperature range throughout the year (that is, the difference between highest and lowest temperature)?
4. Based on weather patterns, which months of the year would you chose to visit the park? Give reasons to support your choice.
3. If you visited the park in winter, what weather conditions (temperature, wind, rain) should you expect?
4. Write a paragraph to describe what role the weather conditions are likely to have had on the formation of the park's landscape. Will it continue to have this role in the future?



3. Climate of Port Campbell area

Compared with inland areas and the Otway Ranges, the park has a relatively mild climate with a narrow temperature range. The warmest months are January and February when average maximum temperatures are about 22°C. Mid-winter average maximum temperatures are about 13°C. Extremely hot days and frosts are relatively rare.

In summer, winds generally blow from the west to southwest; northerlies precede cool changes. From January to April

winds are generally light, but from May to December winds are usually strong, and gale force winds are not uncommon.

Annual rainfall is about 875 mm, slightly higher than in the hinterland but much lower than in the Otway Ranges to the east. Annual rainfall can vary markedly; the recorded annual rainfall ranges from 532 mm to 1354 mm. The wettest months are May to October.

Climate details

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Average daily maximum temperature (° C)	23.5	23.4	22.1	19.7	16.6	14.6
Average daily minimum temperature (° C)	13.4	13.8	12.7	10.6	8.9	6.9
Average rainfall (mm)	33	34	48	60	78	77
Average rain days (no.)	8	8	10	13	17	17

	Jul	Sep	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average daily maximum temperature (° C)	13.8	14.8	16.3	18.4	20	21.5	18.7
Average daily minimum temperature (° C)	6.1	6.7	7.8	9.2	10.4	11.9	9.9
Average rainfall (mm)	88	86	74	67	55	44	744
Average rain days (no.)	20	19	17	15	13	11	168

(For Warrnambool, the meteorological station closest to Port Campbell National Park
Source: Bureau of Meteorology.)