



The Super El Niño

Podcast length: ~25 min

Lesson time: 50 min

Episode: *The Super El Niño: Geography & Climate Sciences*



Listen to the episode

Scan the code or visit takaromedia.com/episodes to hear "The Super El Niño."

Learning Focus

Understanding how ocean currents, wind patterns, and geography influence weather and how changes in one part of Earth's climate system can affect people and ecosystems elsewhere.

Learning Strands

Primary: Think Critically

Supporting: Understand the News, Understand the World

Key Vocabulary

El Niño

trade winds

monsoon

climate change

ocean currents

agriculture

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Explain how trade winds and ocean temperatures contribute to El Niño.
- Describe how El Niño can affect weather, agriculture, and communities in different parts of the world.
- Analyze how interconnected climate systems can create different impacts in different regions.

Materials Needed

- Podcast / audio
 - Board or chart paper
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Learning Outcomes

Students can:

- Explain the basic relationship between trade winds, ocean temperatures, and El Niño.
- Identify at least two ways El Niño can affect people or environments.
- Use evidence from the episode to explain why a change in one part of Earth's climate system can have effects elsewhere.

Before Listening **3 min**

Ask students:

How can something happening in the ocean affect people living thousands of kilometers away?

Tell students:

As you listen, pay attention to how the ocean, wind, weather, and people's lives are connected.

Listen to the Podcast 25 min

Ask students to listen for three things:

1. What is El Niño?
2. What causes it to become particularly strong?
3. How can it affect people in India and elsewhere?

Check for Understanding 8 min

1. **Recall:** Where does El Niño take place, and what happens to the water there?
2. **Explain:** What normally happens when trade winds push warm water toward Indonesia and Australia, and how does this affect the monsoon?
3. **Apply:** Why could a strong El Niño lead to less rainfall and problems for farmers in India?

Discussion 10 min

DISCUSSION

One Planet, Many Effects

- Why can the same climate event cause flooding in one part of the world but drought or extreme heat in another?
- What does El Niño teach us about how connected different parts of Earth are?

If students need guidance, use this sentence structure: "El Niño can affect _____ because _____. This shows that _____."

Exit Ticket 4 min

In your own words, explain how something happening in the Pacific Ocean can affect people in India.