ATENA
LEARNING MADE RELEVANT

ADVENTURERS SERIES

El Niño Is Back (May 11, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

ℹ️ **What?** The El Niño climate phenomenon is likely to return as early as summer 2026, potentially making it one of the strongest ever recorded.

👤 **Who?** Scientists from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Météo-France are closely monitoring the Pacific Ocean.

🌍 **Where?** El Niño occurs in the Pacific Ocean, near the equator, but its effects on weather are felt worldwide.

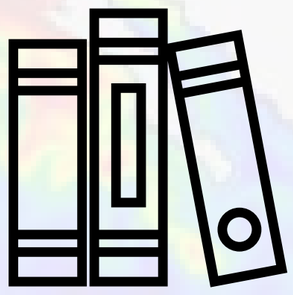
🕰️ **When?** The phenomenon is expected to take hold between May and July 2026 and last until the end of the year, or even into 2027.

❓ **Why is it important?** Because El Niño can trigger heat waves, droughts, extreme rainfall, and could make 2026 one of the hottest years in history.

🎯 **For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about El Niño.**

OBJECTIVES

- Discover the El Niño phenomenon and how it works
- Understand how scientists predict it
- Read and interpret a temperature anomaly graph
- Perform calculations with positive and negative decimal numbers
- Locate countries on a world map.



SUBJECTS

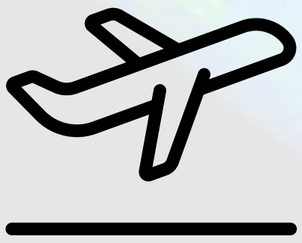
- **Science and Technology**
  - Climate Phenomena
  - Water Cycle and Atmosphere
  - Scientific Observation Methods
- **Mathematics**
  - Reading Graphs
  - Calculations with Decimals and Negative Numbers
  - Arithmetic Mean
  - Data Comparison
- **Geography / Social Studies**
  - Locating on a World Map
  - Oceans and Continents
  - Global Phenomena and Regional Impacts

COMPETENCIES

- Researching and interpreting information
- Reading and analyzing a graph
- Solving mathematical problems
- Locating places on a map
- Making connections between different pieces of information
- Producing short and precise answers

DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they have ever heard of El Niño.
- Ask them what weather they expect this summer.
- Discuss: Can a phenomenon occur in one ocean and have effects all over the world?
- Show a satellite image of the Pacific Ocean with color coding (temperature).
- Gather their hypotheses about the role of oceans in weather.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — An Intense Weather Phenomenon. Discovering El Niño using a video from the *National Geographic* website. Answers to four comprehension questions.

Q1 — Every 2 to 7 years.
Q2 — The Pacific Ocean.
Q3 — North America and South America.
Q4 — Storms, floods, droughts.

STEP 2 — How To Predict El Niño? Reading a graph showing the temperature variations of the Pacific Ocean between 2006 and 2025. Answers to four calculation questions.

Q5 — 2016, with a variation of 2.5 °C.
Q6 — 2.4 °C (1.8 − (−0.6) = 2.4).
Q7 — Seven years (2007, 2010, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, and 2024).
Q8 — (2.5 + 1.8 + 1.5) ÷ 3 ≈ 1.93 °C.

STEP 3 — La Niña, The Little Sister! Discovering La Niña and identifying three affected countries using Google Earth.

Q9 — Australia.
Q10 — Indonesia.
Q11 — The Philippines.

WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group review of what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them (duration of an El Niño, extent of its effects, link to climate).
- Ask: Why is it important to monitor the ocean to forecast the weather?
- Make a connection with other natural phenomena that occur far away but have effects here (volcanoes, hurricanes).
- Discuss the difference between El Niño (natural and cyclical) and climate change (caused by humans).

FURTHER EXPLORATION

📖 Joseph Snedeker, *The Everything KIDS' Weather Book: From Tornadoes to Snowstorms, Puzzles, Games, and Facts That Make Weather for Kids Fun!*