

Well Weathered

You need

- ★ access to a computer spreadsheet/graphing program and the Internet (optional)
- ★ a classmate

Activity

Rakai lives in Kaitaia. During the holidays, he goes to stay with his cousin Matt, who lives in Tekapō. They are discussing each town's weather.

Kaitaia's a lot warmer and sunnier than Tekapō.

Rakai

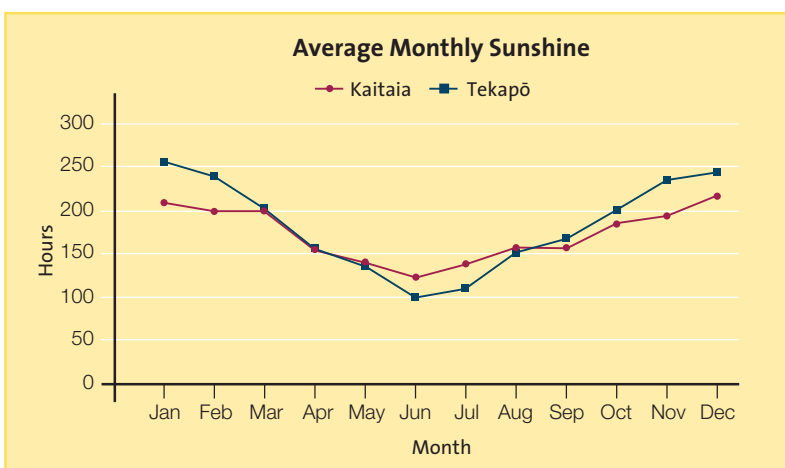
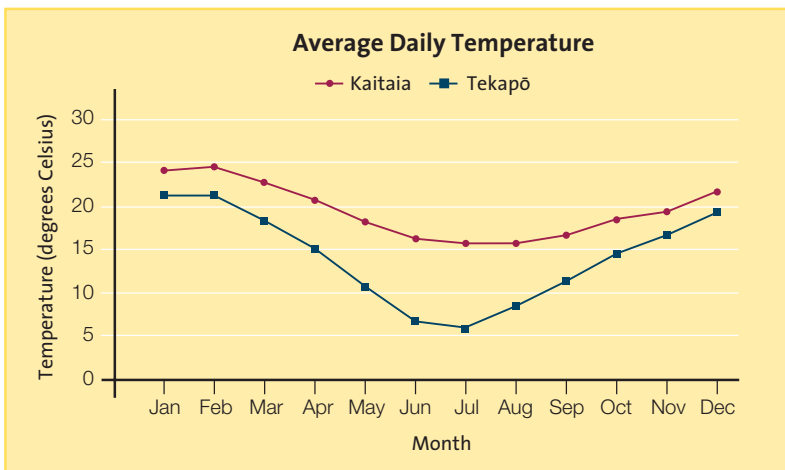


Tekapō summers are great! It seems to rain a lot in Kaitaia.

Matt



The boys find some helpful data on the NIWA website (www.niwa.cri.nz/edu/resources/climate). They use the data to make these two time-series graphs:



1. Using the two graphs, what can you say about:
 - a. temperatures in Kaitaia and Tekapō? Explain why you think this is the case.
 - b. sunshine in Kaitaia and Tekapō? Explain why you think this is the case.
2. What do these graphs *not* tell you about temperature and sunshine in these two places?
3. Is Rakai correct that Kaitaia is “a lot warmer and sunnier than Tekapō”?
4. The cousins also find this rainfall information on the NIWA website:

		Average Monthly Rainfall (millimetres)											
Location		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Kaitaia		82	79	78	95	119	149	166	152	133	93	94	97
Tekapō		41	35	52	52	50	58	52	62	51	57	41	48

- a. Put this data into a graph that is similar to the temperature and sunshine graphs.
- b. What can you say about the rainfall in Kaitaia compared with that in Tekapō?



Investigation

Using the NIWA website, compare the climate of the place where you live (or a town or city near it) with that of another place in New Zealand.

1. Collect the data you need and then display it in graphs that will help you make sense of it.
2. Look for patterns and interesting features. What do they tell you?
3. Present your findings in a paragraph in your book or as a poster, using the graphs to back up your comments.
4. Now that you have some conclusions, write an “I wonder” question that you could investigate further.
5. Carry out this further investigation and then share your findings with a classmate. Ask for feedback on how well your displays support your findings.