What's the difference between weather and climate?

Weather is only temporary. For example, a blizzard can turn into a flood after just a few warm spring days.

Climate, on the other hand, is more than just a few warm or cool days. Climate describes the typical weather conditions in an entire region for a very long time—30 years or more.

Keeping an eye on changing weather can help us plan ahead.

We know that if thunderclouds are forming overhead, it's probably a good idea to stay inside.

But it's important to keep an eye on changes to Earth's climate too. And NASA has observed that Earth is getting warmer.

NASA satellites can measure sea level rise from space.

As Earth's climate warms, ice in Antarctica and Greenland is melting. This causes the level of the oceans to rise.

They can also track changes in the climate by measuring the clouds. We know that changes in the number, size or location of clouds could be caused by a change in Earth's climate.

It's important to keep an eye on our planet and all the ways that it's changing. Right now, it's the only one we've got!

For more information, go to: climate.nasa.gov/kids/weather-climate