

Take Weather photos

WARNING!
Take care when out taking photos. Always check with an adult to make sure it is safe.

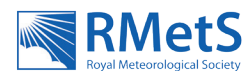
The Royal Meteorological Society and *The Week Junior Science+Nature* are challenging you to get outside and capture some amazing pictures of the weather.

What you need

- A smartphone or camera
- Appropriate clothing
- An adult

How does it work?

It doesn't matter where you are or what you are doing, there is always weather, and that can lend itself to some exciting photo opportunities. This year, *The Week Junior Science+Nature* is supporting the Young Weather Photographer of the Year Award 2023 from the Royal Meteorological Society (RMets). RMets is an organisation that works to raise awareness of weather and the climate. Meteorology is the study of the weather. This international competition is open for submissions from Tuesday 25 April and anyone under the age of 18 can enter.



Once you've taken an amazing photo, visit: tinyurl.com/SN-rmets and submit your image in the Young Weather Photographer of the Year category. The competition closes on 27 June. Entries must be submitted by an adult.



Find the perfect spot for your dream shot.

5 TOP TIPS FOR WEATHER PHOTOGRAPHY



SCIENCE+NATURE TALKED TO JO BRADFORD – A PHOTOGRAPHER AND ONE OF THE WEATHER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR JUDGES

- 1 Weather watch from new positions – lie on the ground or kneel up for a unique view for your photograph.
- 2 Let shadows add new details or points of focus in your photos.
- 3 Use lakes or puddles and the power of reflections to capture your weather twice in a single photo.
- 4 Let the sky take centre stage by keeping any land in your photos low in the frame.
- 5 Don't let bad weather put you off – mist, dramatic clouds, shafts of light and storm fronts can all make dramatic photos.



Clouds Clouds are wonderful to photograph. They can make the sky look bright and fluffy, or dark and moody. There are 48 different classifications of clouds, according to the World Meteorological Organisation's "Cloud Atlas", although most skies will have multiple cloud types at the same time. See what clouds you can capture on camera.



Fog Fog is a cloud that touches the ground. It forms when water vapour (water in its gaseous form) condenses (turns from a gas to a liquid), and the tiny droplets of liquid hang in the air. Fog often appears early in the morning, when the ground is cooler, or in industrial areas where there is pollution. You might have to wake up early to snap a picture of it.



Lightning Catching flashes of lightning on camera is all about luck – and shutter speed (how fast the shutter of your camera closes). You will need a decent camera. If you don't have one, you could take a video and try to grab a still image from that. The best time to capture lightning on camera is in the late evening when the fearsome forks of electricity light up the sky.



GETTY IMAGES: BORIS JORDAN; SABRINA CAROPOLI; STEPHEN CHEATLEY; GARY MCCREATH; JAY BIRMINGHAM; CARLOS BALSERA

Golden hour In photography, the "golden hour" refers to a period shortly after sunrise or just before sunset, when the soft light adds a warm glow to pictures. The yellowy-orange Sun also makes the perfect backdrop for amazing landscape images. Make sure you're at your chosen spot about half an hour before sunrise or sunset to get the best photos.



Storms Some of the most dramatic scenes you can hope to capture happen during storms – and we are not lacking decent storms here in the UK. Pictures of storms will often look dark, so try finding a spot where the storm clouds meet the sky to give your photos a pop of colour. Stay safe – never play near large waves and try not get caught out in bad weather.



Optical phenomena Optical phenomena can be roughly broken down into two categories: rainbows and ice halos. It's not usually cold enough to get ice halos in the UK (not at this time of year), but there are plenty of rainbows on sunny and rainy days. The tallest rainbows happen just after sunrise or just before sunset because the angle of the Sun is lowest.