

词汇: *weather* 天气

The weather affects all of us. An unexpected **downpour** or **hot spell** can be annoying, but when conditions are more **extreme**, it can severely impact agriculture, transport infrastructure and our homes. It's no surprise that for centuries scientists have tried to control the weather – but is it really possible?

Due to **climate change**, there are more regular occurrences of **heatwaves**, which cause **droughts**, and **torrential rain**, which is responsible for **flooding**. Although humans are the cause of much of it, maybe we have a solution too? For example, China, the UAE and the USA are at the forefront of research into methods of producing rain in **drought-stricken** areas. And some scientists are even thinking about investigating technologies which could **cool** the entire planet.

It might sound like science fiction, but **weather modification** is nothing new. In the 1940s, scientists discovered that dropping particles of **silver iodide** into cloud tops, made the tiny water droplets **condense** and could stimulate **precipitation**. That's called **cloud seeding**. This is a technique still being tested today with the aim of producing extra **rainfall** and, therefore, water for drought-affected farmers.

Other ideas for keeping nature at bay include using lasers to generate clouds and for controlling **thunderstorms**. One idea involved firing laser pulses into **thunderclouds** in an attempt to suck out **lightning** in a controlled manner. This was unsuccessful. New research into **solar geoengineering** has also begun. This type of climate engineering involves **sunlight** being reflected back to space to limit or reverse human-caused climate change.

Despite all this ongoing research, there's no conclusive evidence that our weather can be controlled. Chris Bell, a lecturer in **meteorology** at the University of East Anglia, told BBC Future: "We may, one day, have the technology to control the weather, but it will be in thousands, not hundreds, of years." So, for now, we still need to rely on **Mother Nature** to control our weather.

词汇表

downpour	暴雨
hot spell	一段短暂持续的高温天气
extreme	极端的
climate change	气候变化
heatwave	热浪
drought	干旱
torrential rain	倾盆大雨
flooding	洪水
drought-stricken	遭受旱灾的，受旱灾影响的
cool	降温，（使）变凉
weather modification	人工影响天气
silver iodide	碘化银
condense	（使）凝结
precipitation	降水
cloud seeding	（为进行人工降雨而作的）播云
rainfall	降雨
thunderstorm	雷雨
thundercloud	雷雨云
lightning	闪电
solar geoengineering	太阳地球工程
sunlight	阳光
meteorology	气象学
Mother Nature	大自然

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. True or false? *Trying to control the weather is a new idea.*
2. What chemical was used to try to generate precipitation from clouds?
3. Who could benefit from extra rainfall created by cloud seeding?
4. What does solar geoengineering try to do with sunlight?
5. How did one experiment try to use lasers to control thunderstorms?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. According to the weather forecast, we're in for a wet _____, so I'm buying an umbrella.

rainfall	spell	downpour	extreme
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2. Some say eating oranges will keep your cold _____.

at bay	on bay	to bay	at bays
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3. The rain is _____ – we can't go out for a walk in this!

downpour	thunderstorms	torrential	droughts
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4. Water vapour in the air _____ and turns into fog.

precipitation	extremes	heatwaves	condenses
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5. The heat is _____, so I'm staying indoors to keep cool.

extremely	extremed	extreme	extremes
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. True or false? *Trying to control the weather is a new idea.*

False. Scientists have tried to control the weather for centuries.

2. What chemical was used to try to generate precipitation from clouds?

In the 1940s, scientists discovered dropping particles of silver iodide into cloud tops could stimulate precipitation.

3. Who could benefit from extra rainfall created by cloud seeding?

Drought-affected farmers could benefit from extra rainfall created by cloud seeding.

4. What does solar geoengineering try to do with sunlight?

Solar geoengineering involves sunlight being reflected back to space to limit or reverse human-caused climate change.

5. How did one experiment try to use lasers to control thunderstorms?

One experiment involved firing laser pulses into thunderclouds in an attempt to suck out lightning in a controlled manner.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. According to the weather forecast, we're in for a wet **spell**, so I'm buying an umbrella.

2. Some say eating oranges will keep your cold **at bay**.

3. The rain is **torrential** – we can't go out for a walk in this!

4. Water vapour in the air **condenses** and turns into fog.

5. The heat is **extreme**, so I'm staying indoors to keep cool.