

Racing Against the Rain



Grade Level: Middle School

Worksheet

In your State:

Name three or four environmental factors you know about your state.

1. What is the topographical or geological makeup of your state?
2. What environmental region do you live in and what are its characteristic?
 - HINT: Visit your state website using these key words – geography, climate, geology, etc.
 - Soil/rock types:
 - Type of climate:
 - Different regions:
 - Major geological events(like glaciers, volcanos and upthrust:





Where We Race:

Pick one of the following locations and discover more about the track.

- Watkins Glen International Raceway - Watkins, Glen, NY
- ISM Raceway – Phoenix, AZ
- Darlington Raceway – Darlington, SC

1. Describe where the track is located using satellite images; is it a mountain, valley, desert or wetlands? You can find images on sites like Google.
2. Using a topographical map (like Topozone), what is the elevation of the track above sea level?
3. Asphalt for the track surface is made from local rocks and soil. The density and hardness of the materials can impact tire wear. What are the soil conditions at the track? What type of rocks are most predominant? (HINT: Use the state's geological history sites.) How was the area created or what major environmental events impacted the area? Such as (volcanic activity, retreating glaciers, former ocean, uplift of mountains by plate movement)
4. What is its climate like? Is it a dry location? Does it receive a lot of rain? Does it vary with the seasons?





5. When does the race(s) occur at this track? Use the NASCAR schedule for 2018, 2019 and 2020.

2020	2019	2018
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6. Why might these races happen at this time of the year? Are there any climate impacts that would influence the season such as temperature, amount of precipitation or amount of wind?





Experiments: Track Surfaces, Weather and Tires
Temperature/Surface Experiment

Surface	Time	Temperature	Observation Notes





Make it Rain Experiment

Surface	Time	Temperature	Observation Notes





Air Pressure Experiment

Surface	Air Pressure (PSI)	Observation Notes



