

5.3 Location, Location, Location

Cart Title: Water Cycle

Core Connection

Fourth Grade Science Standard 2: Students will understand that the elements of weather can be observed, measured, and recorded to make predictions and determine simple weather patterns.

Summary: Students will use a graph and actual data to help compare the amount of precipitation at the Salt Lake International Airport versus Alta Ski Resort.

Lesson Learning Objectives:

1. Students will compare the different amounts of precipitation at two locations.
2. Students will interpret weather data and hypothesize why the two areas have different total amounts of precipitation.

Materials: Precipitation graph, crayons or colored pencils

Time Approximate: 30 minutes

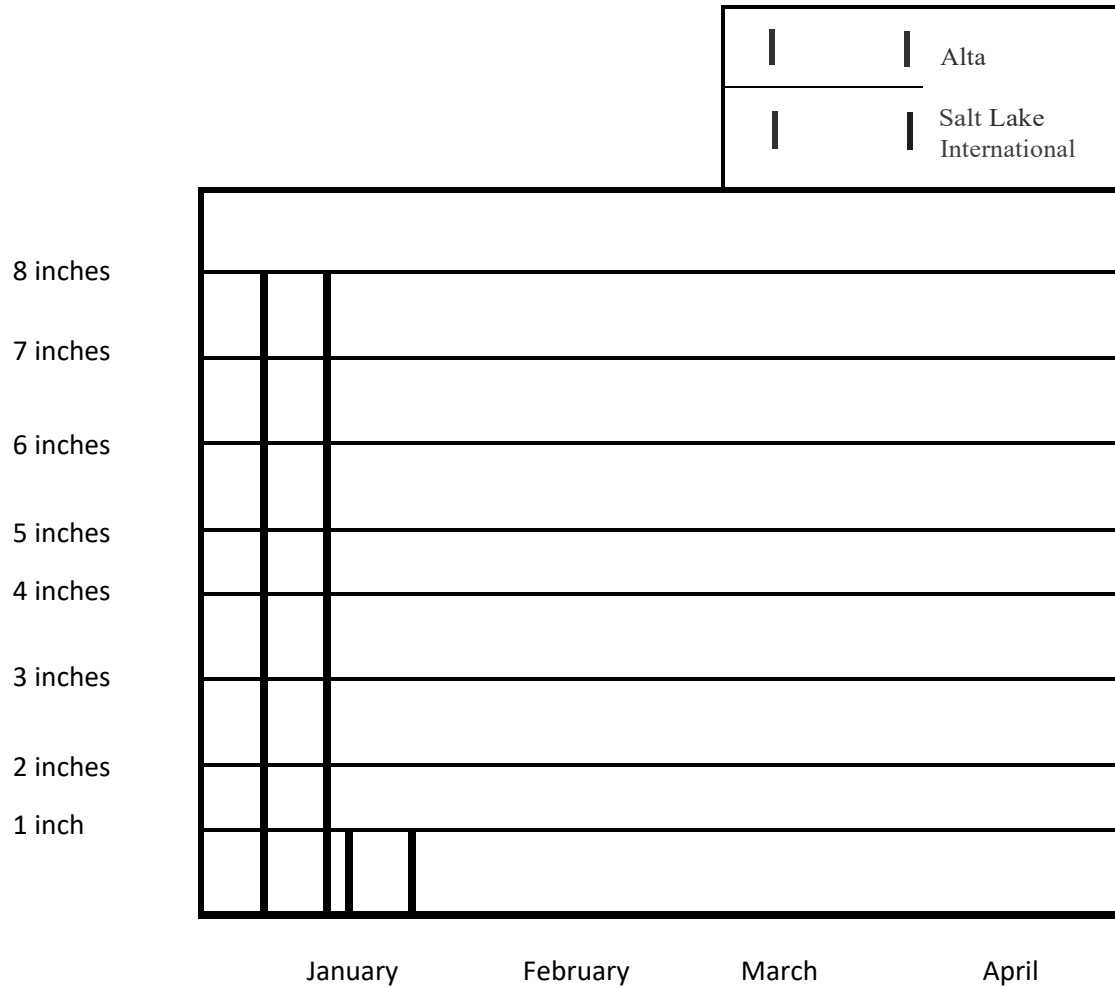
Instructions:

1. Have students color the key at top of graph page and complete the graph page.
2. Discuss the following with class:
3. What are some possible reasons these two locations have different amounts of total precipitation?
4. In which month do you find the greatest difference between the two locations?
5. Based on your graph, can you predict what the precipitation for both locations will be in January of next year? Why or why not?

Extensions:

Have students measure precipitation at their homes over the period of three to four weeks. They will bring this information back to the classroom to use in making a cumulative chart. Are there differences in the amounts of precipitation the students' records? Are these differences due to the same factors that cause the differences between precipitation totals at the airport and Alta? Have students research other resorts to find out what their precipitation total is for a specific time period and compare their findings with the totals at the Salt Lake International Airport and Alta Ski Resort. Make a graph or chart showing the differences in precipitation between the different resorts.

PRECIPITATION GRAPH



Make a bar graph for the data listed below using different colors for each location. Complete the legend.

Data: The amount of water for each location.

Alta	January	8 inches
	February	7 inches
	March	7 inches
	April	5 inches

SLC Airport	January	1 inch
	February	1 inch
	March	2 inches
	April	2 inches