

# Extreme Weather in the UK

## Learning Objective:

- **Assess** if the UK's weather is becoming more extreme



# Learning Outcomes:

- **Examine** evidence of extreme weather
- **Classify** the effects for an example of extreme UK weather
- **Assess** *why* there might be more extreme weather events in the UK





Trafalgar Square - 2003

Traffic chaos - 2010



# Evidence of extreme weather:

2003

## Heatwave

The UK recorded its highest ever temperature of 38.5°C in Kent. Over 2000 people died due to the heat, railway tracks buckled and in places the roads melted!

2009

## Heavy snow

Parts of south-west and south-east England were affected by heavy snow with 20cm falling in the capital.

2009

## Floods

The town of Cockermouth in Cumbria was devastated by floods. Record rainfall amounts fell in November in the Lake District.

2010

## Heavy snow

Much of the UK was hit by heavy snowfalls in December. Northern Ireland recorded a record low temperature of -18.7°C at Castlederg.

2007

## Floods

Several people died and many were left homeless by summer floods affecting Hull, Sheffield and Gloucestershire.

2008

## Floods

Severe flooding occurred in south-west and north-east England with Somerset, Worcestershire and Northumberland badly hit.

2013/14

## Floods

Severe flooding occurred across southern England causing the River Thames to burst its banks and vast areas of the Somerset Levels to become inundated. It was England's wettest winter in 250 years.

2015/16

## Floods

Severe storms and exceptionally heavy rainfall caused devastating floods to many areas, especially the north of England. Yorkshire and Cumbria (photo C) were badly affected. December 2015 was the wettest and warmest month ever recorded in the UK.

Your guide to the hosepipe ban  
6.4.12

The warmest winter  
since records began  
17.3.07

More flood alerts as  
the deluge goes on  
7.7.12

70000 hit by flight chaos as fog  
shrouds the holidays in misery  
22.12.06

Wettest summer for 100 years  
31.8.12

Dust down the barbeque – the late  
Mediterranean summer is here  
24.9.11

Blown to a halt by the great gale.  
19.1.07

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# **‘UK weather is becoming more extreme’**

Use the headings to discuss this statement.

# UK: November and December 2010 = EXTREME COLD!

## Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts.

<p>Several people died from hypothermia or accidents.</p>	<p>Water pipes froze and burst, leading to leaky pipes.</p>	<p>Transport networks severely disrupted - motorways shut (M8 closed for 2 days). Trains and flights cancelled.</p>	<p>40,000 homes and businesses were left without water for over a week.</p>
<p>People unable to get to work, affecting the UK's economy.</p>	<p>Snow covered almost all of the UK - depth of 50cm in some hilly areas.</p>	<p>Frost damaged crops - especially sugar beet.</p>	<p>Christmas sales in shops were down, as shoppers were put off by the weather.</p>
<p>Overall impact of £1.6 billion lost - UK's GDP fell by 0.5%.</p>	<p>Schools closed for 3 or 4 days, including 7000 schools on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p>	<p>Parents taking time off to look after their children.</p>	<p>Use of gas and electricity more than doubled in December - increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</p>



**IN CASE OF  
EMERGENCY**  
*Call* **911**

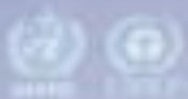


# Management strategies?

- PREDICTION: *warning of it?*
- PROTECTION: *roads?*
- PLANNING: *health and safety?*



**ipcc**  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON  
climate change



COPENHAGEN  
DENMARK 2009

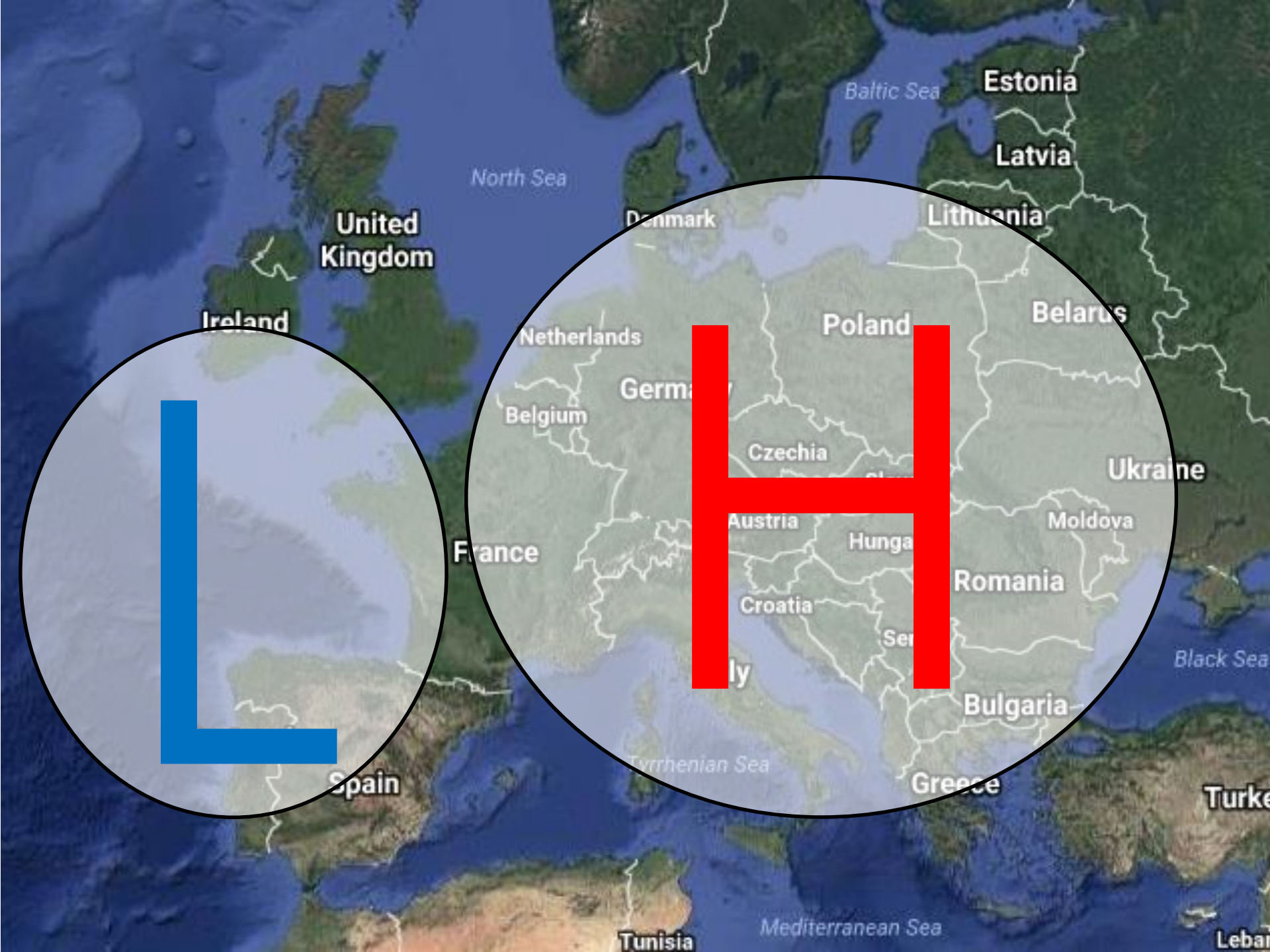


*Barack Obama*  
Secretary General of the  
United Nations

*Rajendra K. Pachauri*  
Chairman of the IPCC

# On the increase..?

- **Temperatures**: linking to a warming world.
- **Energy**: More in the atmosphere.
- **Heatwaves**: In normally cool areas.
- **Pressure systems get stuck**: see Europe map.



L

H

# Suggest why the UK's weather is becoming more extreme. (4 marks)

- There can be reference to a wide range of different weather types.
- There should be a description of the weather conditions with a suggestion as to whether they are becoming more extreme.
- Credit any reference to recent extreme weather events, such as those given in the timeline on page 38.