Nature facts (Rain)

1. Raindrops exist in which shape?

The raindrop's shape depends on the size of the water droplet. The raindrops have a spherical, flattened spherical, or hamburger bun-like shape. The size of a raindrop affects the speed of falling. There is a directly proportional relation between the size of a raindrop and the speed of falling. As the size of a raindrop increases, the speed of falling also increases. The air present in the atmosphere affects the shape of raindrops.

2. Do you know some of the wettest places in the world?

***Mount Waialeale**, **Hawaii**, is one of the wettest places on earth. It has an annual rainfall of about 450 inches (11700 mm). **Cherrapunji** in **Meghalaya**, India, is also one of the wettest places in the world. Cherrapunji is located south of the **Khasi Hills**. Cherrapunji has an annual rainfall of about 11430 mm. A village named **Mawsynram**, which is located in the East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, India, is among the wettest places in the world. There is about 11872 mm of rainfall annually in Mawsynram village. The geographical location of Mawsynram is the cause of such high rainfall. The village is located near the **Bay of Bengal**. The moist air from the Bay of Bengal hits the mountains and leads to heavy rainfall.*

3. Do you know some of the driest places in the world?

*The **McMurdo Dry Valleys**, situated in Antarctica, are the driest polar places on earth. The McMurdo Valleys have very low humidity in the surrounding atmosphere. The McMurdo Dry Valleys have not seen rain for approximately two million years. The **Atacama Desert**, located in **Chile**, is the driest nonpolar place in the world. The average rainfall in the Atacama Desert is about 1 mm. The cold Humboldt Current offshore and the Andes Mountains are among the driest nonpolar places. The **cold Humboldt Current offshore** and **the Andes mountains** are responsible for the climatic conditions in the Atacama Desert.*

4. What is the phantom rain?

*Phantom rain is an observable event of the atmosphere where rain falls from the clouds, but it is unable to reach the ground. There is sublimation or evaporation of the water droplet before it touches the ground. Phantom rain occurs in hot or dry places such as deserts. Extreme heat and less humidity in the atmosphere cause water droplets to evaporate before they touch the ground. Phantom rain is also called "**virga**."*

5. Do you know about acid rain?

*Chemicals in the surrounding atmosphere, such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, cause **acid rain.***

*Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide react with oxygen present in water molecules. The end products of the reaction are sulfuric acid and nitric acid, respectively. The **acid rain** then falls on the ground, which leads to harmful effects on the ecosystem, whether it may be human, forest, animal, bird, or marine animals.*

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