

Flashcards: Weather and Climate

Directions: Review the following key terms and their definitions.

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| weather | the day-to-day conditions of temperature, cloud cover, wind speed, etc. |
| climate | The average long-term characterization of an area's temperature and precipitation |
| air mass | a large area of air that moves over a large area and takes on the character of the ground beneath it |
| front | place where two air masses meet, with their differences based on density |
| cold front | formed when a cold air mass pushes up and under a warm air mass |
| warm front | forms when a warm air mass pushes up and over a cold air mass |
| stationary front | forms when a cold air mass meets a warm air mass and neither one can move the other |
| tropical climate | characterized by year-long warm temperatures; occurs near the equator |
| temperate climate | characterized by seasonal changes in temperature; has distinct seasons |
| albedo | measure of the amount of sunlight reflected by a surface; snow, ice, and sand have high albedo |
| altitude | height above sea level |
| latitude | distance north or south of the equator |
| steppe | climate with vegetation consisting mostly of small grasses and shrubs |
| monsoonal | characterized by a season of strong winds and intense rains |
| humid | characterized by having a high amount of water in the air |