

REMINDERS

- ❖ Two required essays are due by **April 17, 2020.**
- A late penalty will be applied.
- ✓ A third essay may be used for extra credit in place of a "Think Geographically" essay.

ESSAY TOPICS (choose any two):

- Contributions of a noted geographer, earth scientist or explorer (chapter 1)
- Relationship of climate change to a listed current event topic (ch. 2)
- Discuss a natural process that is deemed a natural hazard (ch. 3)

- ❖ Extra Credit: "Think Geographically" Essays from any five of the textbook's chapters 4-12.
 - Last day to submit is **May 12.** but it is best to do them as you finish reading a chapter.

- Any essay may be handed in before the deadline.
- Don't wait for the night before to write them!!

**GEOG 101 Part II
People and their
Physical Environment**

12: The Atmosphere
Aspects of
Weather and Climate
Chapter 2

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**PART II: People and their
Physical Environment**

- ✓ I. Introduction to the Physical Environment
- ✓ II. Earth-Sun Relationship
- III. Earth Systems
 - ✓ A. The Hydrosphere: Oceans
 - B. The Atmosphere: **Weather and Climate**
 - C. The Lithosphere: Geologic Influences
- IV. Earth Habitat
 - A. Biosphere
 - B. Natural Controls and Cycles
 - C. Human Impact
 - D. Natural Hazards
 - E. Earth Resources

THE ATMOSPHERE

- ✓ We need to be aware of and understand atmospheric processes: **decision making.**
- ✓ All life is dependent on favorable conditions in the atmosphere: **chemical composition, air pressure, temperature, humidity and air movement.**
- The atmosphere is a shield: it protects us from meteorites, UV rays and heat loss.

The Atmosphere

- ❖ All parts of the atmosphere are interconnected and linked to conditions in the oceans.
 - ✓ They are influenced by change any place on the planet.
- People have had and continue to have an impact on both weather and climate.
 - ✓ Initiating and magnifying **global climate change** and local **microclimate and microweather** developments.

WEATHER and CLIMATE

What is the difference between
weather
and
climate?

WEATHER

❖ **WEATHER: The state of the atmosphere at any one point in time.**

There are 4 parts to weather: *What are they?*

Temperature
Air pressure
Wind
Moisture

➤ **Weather forecast** or prediction is an **attempt to guess** what each of the 4 elements will be like in the future **based on models** constructed from recorded data of sequential events that occurred over a long period of time in the past. *By recognizing and studying these events, we may be able to predict their recurrence.*

CLIMATE

❖ **CLIMATE: The average of all weather events at a particular location over a long period (50+ yrs) of time.**

- ✓ Climates change naturally as weather events change in relation to earth-sun relationships.
- **Climate maps** show the distribution of averaged data.
- **Climographs** give us snapshots of the climate characteristics of individual locations.

Elements of Weather

❖ **WEATHER: The state of the atmosphere at any one point in time.**

Weather consists of:

1. temperature
2. air pressure
3. wind
4. moisture

✓ **Each is dependent on the others.**
 ✓ **Each changes as the others change.**

Elements of Weather

1. **TEMPERATURE: the amount of heat contained in a substance.**

Earth's surface air temperature varies with various interrelated relationships and conditions:

- ✓ earth-sun relationships
- ✓ atmospheric conditions
- ✓ surface conditions

Earth-Sun Relationships

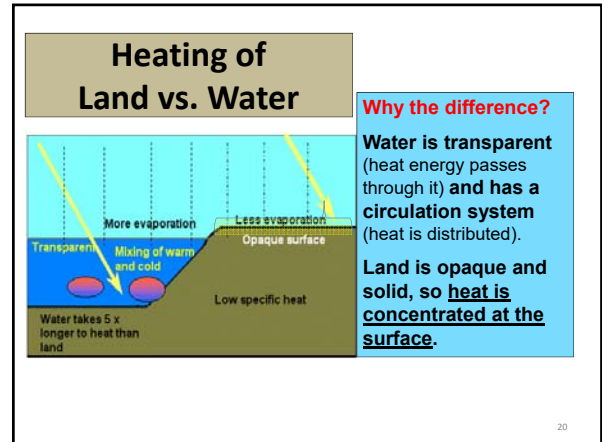
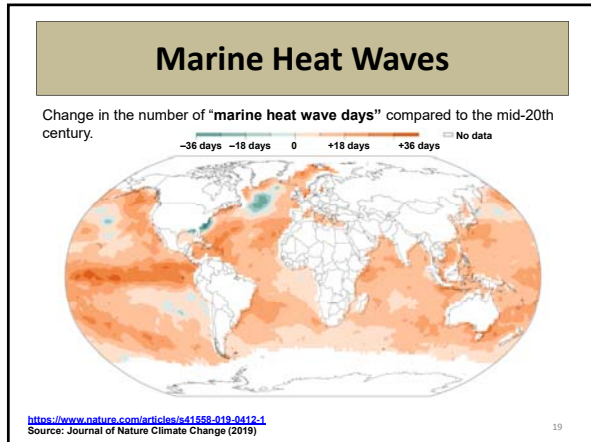
– Angle at which the rays hit the surface
 – Varies daily and seasonally as the sun changes position in the sky.

❖ Review rotation, revolution, inclination and parallelism.

< Weak rays, low angle at the poles
 < Intense rays, high angle in the tropics.
 < Less extreme characteristics and more variation in the middle latitudes.

Angle of Sun's Rays

TROPICAL **MID-LATITUDE** **SUBARCTIC**



Ocean Circulation

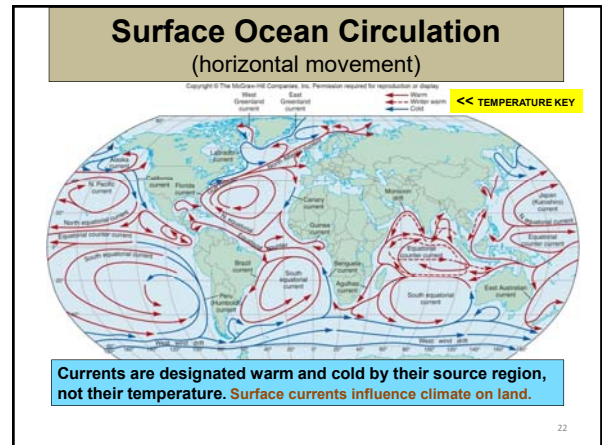
Review slides and Youtube videos in Lecture 11

❖ Ocean currents help regulate the temperature of the earth's surface.

The temperature of the top of the ocean is transferred to the bottom of the atmosphere.

- Ocean currents are generated by earth's rotation, wind friction, water temperature differences and salinity differences.

➤ **Movements are both horizontal and vertical.**



Deep Ocean Circulation (vertical movement)

Deep ocean circulation is a "conveyor belt" of sea water.

Warm surface water is cooled in the Arctic Ocean and sinks to the bottom of the Atlantic.

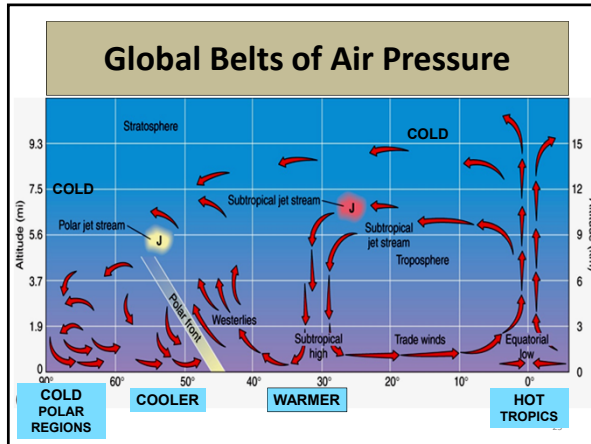
Cold water is drawn to the surface in the Indian and Pacific oceans because of great evaporation in the equatorial regions.

Elements of Weather

2. AIR PRESSURE

is the **weight** of the atmosphere (14 lbs./sq in at sea level). It **varies with temperature.**

- **Warm air rises** and lessens surface air pressure = area of low pressure
- **Cool air falls** and increases surface air pressure = area of high pressure.



Elements of Weather

3. WIND:
Air moving from an area of high pressure to an area of low pressure (pressure gradient).

- The **greater the difference** in pressure the faster (stronger) the wind will be.
- The **closer to each other** the centers of high and low pressure are, the faster the wind will be.
- Wind is named by the direction **from which it comes**, NOT the direction it is moving.

Wind Systems

Wind Systems: Areas where wind blows in a unique and predictable fashion based on pressure gradients.

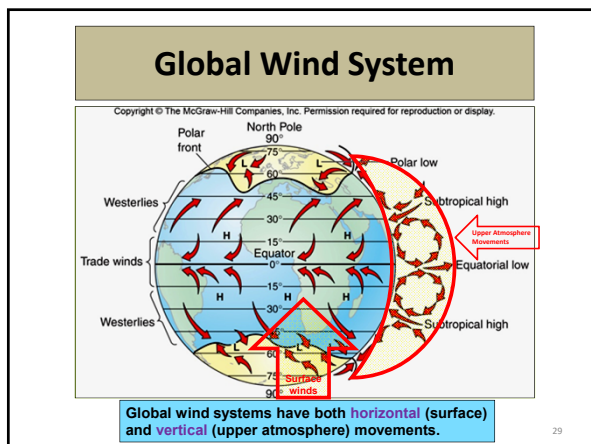
- o Global wind systems.
- o Regional wind systems.
- o Local wind systems.

Jet Stream Animation

- ❖ The Northern Hemisphere's **polar jet stream** is a fast-moving belt of westerly winds that traverses the lower layers of the atmosphere.
- The jet is created by the convergence of cold air masses descending from the Arctic and rising warm air from the tropics.
- This pattern spreads across the mid-latitudes of North America, Europe and Asia, as pockets of cold air creep down from the Arctic—creating contrasting waves and flows that accelerate east-ward due to Earth's rotation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_HIBj0teRY 25 sec jet stream animation

The visualization uses weather and climate observations from NASA's MERRA dataset to model 30 days of the jet stream's whirling journey over North America. Published on Jul 12, 2012 Courtesy: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center .



Regional Wind System

Asian Monsoon

DRY MONSOON

Some islands experience monsoons on different opposite coasts during the year because of the changing wind direction.

WET MONSOON

NOTE: Monsoons occur on all continents except Antarctica, but are not as intense as the Asian monsoon.

Local Wind Systems

LAND BREEZE

SEA BREEZE

MOUNTAIN BREEZE

VALLEY BREEZE

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Elements of Weather

4. MOISTURE: Water vapor in the atmosphere includes humidity, precipitation and cloud cover.

- Very important part of earth environment.
- ❖ **Temperature is the controlling factor for the amount of moisture in the atmosphere** (hot and humid / cold and dry).
- Moisture is moved by wind.
- Condensation and precipitation return moisture to the earth's surface (hydrologic cycle).

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Air Masses

Moisture is moved by air masses.

They are designated by their source area and have **unique characteristics** of temperature and moisture.

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CONDENSATION

The conversion of water from a vapor to a liquid state.

1. Warm air containing water vapor (humidity) rises.
2. As air cools, moisture condenses to form clouds.
3. When the air reaches its saturation point (for its temperature), precipitation occurs.

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3 Types of Precipitation

CONVECTION
heat generated

OROGRAPHIC
landform generated

CYCLONIC
or
FRONTAL
air mass generated

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Precipitation Trigger

Precipitation occurs in air masses when and where there is a **change of temperature**. This change is the trigger mechanism for all types of precipitation.

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NEXT

CLIMATE
and
Climate Controls

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