

WEATHER

VOCABULARY: Science Chapters 6-7 [Weather]

_____ Name _____ Date _____

1. **air pressure** the measure of the force with which air molecules push on a surface
2. **atmosphere** a mixture of gases that surrounds a planet or moon
3. **condensation** the change of state from a gas to a liquid
4. **global warming** a gradual increase in average global temperature
5. **greenhouse effect** the warming of the surface and lower atmosphere of Earth that occurs when carbon dioxide, water vapor, and other gases in the air absorb and reradiate infrared radiation
6. **humidity** the amount of water vapor in the air
7. **jet stream** a narrow belt of strong winds that blow in the upper troposphere
8. **relative humidity** the ratio of the amount of water vapor in the air to the maximum amount of water vapor the air can hold at a set temperature
9. **weather** the short-term state of the atmosphere, including temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind, and visibility
10. **wind** the horizontal movement of air from an area of high pressure to an area of lower pressure
11. **acid precipitation** precipitation, such as rain, sleet, or snow, that contains a high concentration of acids, often because of the pollution of the atmosphere
12. **air mass** a large body of air where temperature and moisture content are constant throughout
13. **anemometer** an instrument used to measure wind speed
14. **anticyclone** the rotation of air around a high-pressure center in the direction opposite to Earth's rotation
15. **barometer** an instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure
16. **cloud** a collection of small water droplets or ice crystals suspended in the air, which forms when the air is cooled and condensation occurs
17. **cyclone** an area in the atmosphere that has lower pressure than the surrounding areas and has winds that spiral toward the center
18. **front** the boundary between air masses of different densities and usually different temperatures
19. **hurricane** a severe storm that develops over tropical oceans and whose strong winds of more than 120 km/h spiral in toward the intensely low-pressure storm center
20. **lightning** an electric discharge that takes place between two oppositely charged surfaces, such as between a cloud and the ground, between two clouds, or between two parts of the same cloud
21. **precipitation** any form of water that falls to the Earth's surface from the clouds
22. **thermometer** an instrument that measures and indicates temperature
23. **thunder** the sound caused by the rapid expansion of air along an electrical strike
24. **thunderstorm** a usually brief, heavy storm that consists of rain, strong winds, lightning, and thunder
25. **tornado** a destructive, rotating column of air that has very high wind speeds, is visible as a funnel-shaped cloud, and touches the ground