

# What Is Weather? (p. 454 – 461)

## I. Weather Factors

### 1. Define the term weather.

Weather – State of the atmospheric conditions at a specific time + place

### 2. What are four factors that influence weather?

1. Air Pressure 2. Wind 3. Temperature 4. Humidity

### 3. Define the term humidity.

Humidity – Amount of water vapor held in the air  
(warm air = holds more water vapor)

### 4. Define the term relative humidity.

Relative Humidity – Measure of the amount of moisture in the air, compared with the amount it can hold at a given temperature (0% to 100%)

### 5. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about relative humidity.

- ☒ a. It is a percentage.  
☐ b. It is all the water vapor that the air can hold.  
☒ c. It depends on air temperature.  
☐ d. It measures how hot it feels.

↑ (Reported by weather station)

### 6. Relative humidity can be measured with a(n) psychrometer. (Not in book.)

### 7. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about how a psychrometer works. (Not in the book.)

- ☐ a. The <sup>Wet</sup> dry-bulb thermometer is cooled by evaporation when the wind blows.  
☒ b. The higher the humidity, the <sup>slower</sup> faster water evaporates from the bulb.  
☒ c. The wet-bulb thermometer reading is always <sup>lower</sup> higher than the dry-bulb reading.  
☒ d. When relative humidity is high, there is little difference between thermometer readings.

## II. Dew Point

### 1. Define the term dew point.

Dew Point – Temperature at which air is saturated and condensation forms

### 2. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about condensation of water vapor.

- ☐ a. It occurs when air gets <sup>cooler</sup> warmer.  
☒ b. It can occur on cold surfaces. (slows down molecules)  
☒ c. It explains why clouds form.  
☒ d. It can form on dust particles.

**3. Match the terms with the correct definitions.**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>D</u> - Condensation | A. Ice that has been deposited on a surface with a temperature below freezing. (Deposition phase change) |
| 2. <u>C</u> - Dew Point    | B. Water that condenses from the air onto a cooler surface.  |
| 3. <u>B</u> - Dew          | C. Temperature at which condensation begins.   |
| 4. <u>A</u> - Frost        | D. Process by which molecules of water vapor become liquid water.  |

**III. Forming Clouds****1. Complete the flowchart of how clouds form.**

Clouds:  
Form on:  
salt crystals  
dust  
smoke

Clouds form as Warm air is forced upward, expands, and cools.

↓

As the air cools, relative humidity increases.

↓

Relative humidity reaches 100%.

↓

Water vapor begins to condense and form tiny droplets, which form clouds.

**IV. Classifying Clouds****1. Match the type of cloud with the correct characteristics.**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>B</u> - Cumulus      | A. Wispy, feathery clouds; High altitudes (Approaching storm) |
| 2. <u>C</u> - Stratus      | B. White, fluffy clouds; Low to high altitude (Fair weather)  |
| 3. <u>A</u> - Cirrus       | C. Gray, flat layers; Low altitudes (Rain, drizzle, snow)     |
| 4. <u>D</u> - Cumulonimbus | D. Towering clouds (up to 18 km); Indicate thunderstorms      |

**V. Precipitation****1. Define the term precipitation.**

Precipitation - Water falling from clouds whose form is determined by air temperature

**2. Match the type of precipitation with the correct characteristics.**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. <u>C</u> - Rain  | A. Raindrops that pass through a layer of freezing air near Earth. |
| 2. <u>D</u> - Hail  | B. Air temperature so cold that water vapor becomes solid.         |
| 3. <u>A</u> - Sleet | C. Drops of water falling at temperatures above freezing.          |
| 4. <u>B</u> - Snow  | D. Lumps of ice that grow when tossed by cumulonimbus winds.       |