Handout 1 (pink) Weather

Elements of Weather

When liquid water absorbs energy, it changes to:

■A gas



When liquid water evaporates, the water:

absorbs energy from the environment



The name for the process in which water vapor changes back into a liquid is:

■ condensation



What happens to latent heat when ice thaws?Latent heat is absorbed when ice thaws.



Through what process does most water enter the atmosphere? evaporation



Where on Earth does most evaporation take place?
In the oceans of the equatorial regions



What determines the rate of evaporation? Air temperature







What happens to the relative humidity if the temperature increases as the moisture in the air remains constant?
The relative humidity will decrease



What causes dew to form? Objects near the ground lose heat during the night, often dropping to the dew point of the surrounding air. Air comes in contact with the surfaces and water vapor condenses out of it.

Why do meteorologists measure humidity?So that they can better predict weather conditions.



Any form of water that falls to Earth's surface from the clouds is called:

precipitation



Frozen precipitation Melts and reaches the ground as rain.

Frozen precipitation melts in warm air. Rain falls and freezes on cold surfaces.

Frozen precipitation melts in shallow warm air. Then refreezes into sleet before reaching the surface.

Name four major types of moisture that falls from the air to Earth.

Rain ■ Snow ■ Sleet ■ Hail



Rain

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Sleet

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Snow

Rain:Liquid precipitation



Rain

Freezing Rain

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Sleet

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Snow

Drizzle:

Rain consisting of drops smaller than 0.5 mm in diameter



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Snow:

Precipitation consisting of ice particles



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Snow

Sleet:

Clear ice pellets formed when rain falls through a layer of freezing air



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Glaze ice:A thick layer of ice on a surface



■ Ice storm:

■ The condition which produces glaze ice



- Hail:

Solid precipitation in the form of lumps of ice



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What is the most common form of solid precipitation?

■ snow



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In what kind of clouds does hail usually form? Cumulonimbus



- What process causes hail to form and fall to the ground?
 - Convection currents within clouds carry rain drops to high levels, where they freeze. They are carried upward again, accumulating additional layers of ice. They fall when they are too heavy for convection currents to carry.

What must happen in order for a cloud droplet to fall as precipitation?
It must increase in size

Average rain drop size - 2 millimeters

Average cloud droplet size - 0.02 millimeters



Average condensation nucleus size -0.0002 millimeters

What happens in the process of coalescence? Small droplets combine to form larger droplets.



What is NOT true of freezing nuclei?They are a form of precipitation



What is the name of an instrument used to measure rainfall?

Rain gauge

What does Doppler radar measure? It bounces radio waves off rain or snow and times how long the wave takes to return to measure the intensity of precipitation



Name three things meteorologist can determine with Doppler radar.
 Location
 Direction of movement
 Intensity of precipitation



The End

