

Climate and Climate Change ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

Climate Regions

This section explains how scientists classify climates and describes five major climate regions.

Use Target Reading Skills

As you read about the six main climate regions, fill in the graphic organizer below to compare and contrast precipitation and temperature in each region.

Climate Regions

Climate Region	Precipitation	Temperature
Tropical Rainy	Heavy Precipitation	
Dry		
Temperate Marine		
Temperate Continental		
Polar		
Highlands		

Introduction

1. What are the two major factors that scientists use to classify climates?

2. List the six major climate regions.

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____ d. _____

e. _____ f. _____

3. Is the following sentence true or false? Climate regions are marked by clear boundaries. _____

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Tropical Rainy Climates

4. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about a tropical wet climate.
 - a. It has heavy rainfall year-round.
 - b. It is hot year-round.
 - c. Rain forests grow in this type of climate.
 - d. Florida has this type of climate.

5. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about a tropical wet-and-dry climate.
 - a. It has a rainy season and a dry season.
 - b. It is hot year-round.
 - c. Grasslands grow in this type of climate.
 - d. Hawaii has this type of climate.

Dry Climates

6. Arid regions, which get less than 25 centimeters of rain every year, are also called _____.

7. Where are arid climates in the United States?

8. An area that is dry but gets enough rainfall for short grasses and low bushes to grow is called a(n) _____.

9. The steppe region of the United States is the _____.

Temperate Marine Climates

10. Complete the compare/contrast table showing the different types of marine climates.

Temperate Marine Climates		
Type of Climate	Characteristics	U.S. Region
a. _____	Cool and wet	Pacific Northwest
Mediterranean	b. _____	c. _____
d. _____	Warm and wet	e. _____

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Climate Regions *(continued)*

f. Write a statement that describes the relationship between location and temperature of a temperate marine climate in the United States.

Temperate Continental Climates

11. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about temperate continental climates.

- a. They are found in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
- b. They are greatly influenced by oceans.
- c. They have extremes of temperature.
- d. They are found in the northeastern United States.

12. Is the following sentence true or false? Humid continental climates receive less precipitation in summer than in winter.

13. What are summers and winters like in subarctic climates?

Polar Climates

14. Is the following sentence true or false? The polar climate is the coldest climate region. _____

15. Is the following statement true or false? Plants cannot grow in ice cap climates. _____

16. Permanently frozen tundra soil is called _____.

Highlands

17. How do highland climates differ from climates of the regions that surround them?

18. The climate above the tree line is like that of the _____.