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Science 6

## Weather/Climate Unit Vocabulary

### **anemometer--**

a gauge for recording the speed and direction of wind

### **atmosphere-**

1. the envelope of gases surrounding any celestial body
2. a unit of pressure: the pressure that will support a column of mercury 760 mm high at sea level and 0 degrees centigrade

### **atmospheric phenomenon--**

a physical phenomenon associated with the atmosphere

### **barometer--**

a device that measures atmospheric pressure

### **cirrus--**

a wispy white cloud at a high altitude

### **climate--**

1. the average measure of weather events over periods of time
2. the usual weather expected in a given region

### **cloud--**

a visible mass of water or ice particles suspended at a considerable altitude

### **Coriolis effect--**

on Earth the Coriolis effect deflects moving bodies to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere

### **cumulus--**

a globular cloud

### **dew point--**

the temperature at which the water vapor in the air becomes saturated and condensation begins

### **evaporation--**

the process of becoming a vapor

### **fog--**

cloudy layer of water vapor very close to the ground

### **front--**

the side that is forward or prominent

### **hail--**

precipitation of ice pellets

**humidity--**

degree of water vapor in the atmosphere

**hurricane--**

a severe tropical cyclone usually with heavy rains and winds developing in the Atlantic Ocean

**hygrometer--**

instrument for measuring the relative humidity of the atmosphere

**lightning--**

the flash of light that accompanies an electric discharge in the atmosphere or between the atmosphere and the ground

**nimbus--**

a dark grey cloud bearing rain

**precipitation--**

the falling to earth of any form of water

**pressure--**

the exertion of force to a surface

**rain--**

precipitation falling in drops from vapor in the atmosphere

**sleet--**

partially melted snow (or a mixture of rain and snow)

**snow--**

precipitation falling from clouds in the form of ice crystals

**stratus--**

a large dark low cloud

**tornado--**

a violently destructive windstorm occurring over land

**typhoon--**

a tropical cyclone occurring in the western Pacific or Indian oceans

**visibility--**

quality or fact or degree of being visible; perceptible by the eye or obvious to the eye

**weather--**

atmospheric conditions including temperature, precipitation, wind speed and direction, air pressure, and solar radiation

**wind--**

air moving from high pressure to low pressure