

### Storm Surge

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When the levels of seawater rise during the storm

### **Atmosphere**

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The thin layer of gases that insulates the Earth from extreme temperatures

#### Stratosphere

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The region of the atmosphere in which the Ozone layer is located

#### **Troposphere**

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The lowest region of the Earth's atmosphere where weather and clouds occur





## Solar Radiation

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The energy that travels from the sun to the Earth

Isobars

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The bars on weather maps that identify areas of equal atmospheric pressure

Air Masses

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Large, moving pockets of air that travel as a single unit

**Fronts** 

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Where two air masses meet





## Warm Fronts

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When a mass of warm air rises over a mass of cool air

#### **Cold Fronts**

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When a cold air mass replaces a warm air mass

## Occluded Fronts

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When one front takes over another

#### Isotherms

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The lines on weather map that identify areas of equal temperature





## Atmospheric Pressure

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The weight of the atmosphere on the earth

### Barograph

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The instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure (in hectopascals)

## Humidity

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# The amount of moisture in the air

### Hygrometer

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The instrument used to measure relative humidity (as a percentage of maximum humidity)





## Stevenson Screen

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A white box that contains all the instruments used to measure temperature, humidity and atmospheric pressure

#### Wind Vane

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The instrument used to measure wind direction (N, S, E or W)

#### **Anemometer**

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The instrument used to measure wind speed (in km/h)

### Beaufort Scale

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The scale used to measure wind strength (on a scale from 1-12)





# Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder

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The instrument used to measure sunshine (in hours per day)

#### Isohels

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The lines on a weather map that identify areas of equal sunshine

### Rain Gauge

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The instrument used to measure rainfall (in millimetres)

#### Clouds

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Collections of tiny water droplets held in the atmosphere





## Stratus Clouds

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Flat, grey clouds that occur below 2,000 metres, indicating a rainy day

## Cumulus Clouds

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Fluffy, white clouds that occur below 5,000 metres, indicating a sunny day

## Cirrus Clouds

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Wispy, white clouds that occur above 8,000 metres

#### Convectional Rain

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When warm air rises and later condenses to form a cloud





## Cyclonic Rain

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When two air masses meet, causing the warm air to cool and condense

#### Relief Rain

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When prevailing winds carrying moisture are forced to cool and condense as they travel over mountains

### Evaporation

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When the sun heats up water and turns it into water vapour

#### Condensation

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When water vapour rises, cools, and condenses into tiny water droplets





#### Precipitation

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When the air cannot hold any more water and so releases it

#### Run-off

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The water that runs off the land into the lakes, oceans and rivers

# Prevailing Winds

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The most common winds, named after the direction from which they come

### **Aspect**

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The direction a slope faces relative to the sun





#### **Altitude**

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## Height above sea level

#### Westerlies

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Prevailing winds from latitudes between 30 and 60 degrees

# The Doldrums

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The area close to the equator where the weather is very calm

## North Atlantic Drift

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The north-easterly travel of the warm current from the Gulf of Mexico to northwest Europe





## Coriolis Effect

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# The pattern of deflection

**Gulf Stream** 

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A warm current, starting in the Gulf of Mexico flowing toward the North Atlantic Ocean

**Anticyclone** 

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An air mass containing a centre of high pressure

Synoptic Chart

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The formal name for a weather map

