**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Climate Features:**

Different parts of the world have different climates. Some parts of the world are hot and rainy nearly every day. They have a tropical wet climate. Others are cold and snow-covered most of the year. They have a polar climate. Between the icy poles and the steamy tropics are many other climates that help make the Earth a unique planet. Temperature and precipitation (rain or snow) are important features of climate.

**2. What are two important features of climate?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Climate Conditions:**

A region’s climate is something like a person’s personality. It is usually constant, but there may be surprises. Just as someone with a cheerful attitude will sometimes be sad, an area with mild climate will occasionally experience extreme rainfall or drought (a period with no rain). The enormous variety of plant and animal life on Earth is largely due to the variety of climates that exist and the climate changes that have occurred in the past.

**3. Why are there so many different kinds of plants and animals on Earth?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Climate Factors:**

All climates are the product of many factors including latitude, distance from the equator. The closer you are the equator, the warmer your climate will be. Another factor affecting climate is elevation, how far the land is above sea level. The higher you are the colder your climate will be. Distance from the ocean also affects climate. For example, the rainy tropical climate of West Africa is a result of being near the equator and its position near the Atlantic coast.

**4. What is latitude and how does it affect climate?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. What is elevation and how does it affect climate?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**6. Why do you think distance from ocean affects climate?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Climate Types: There are five climate groups: TROPICAL, DRY, MILD, CONTINENTAL, AND POLAR.**

**1. TROPICAL CLIMATES:** Places with tropical wet climates are also known as rainforests. Rainforests have warm temperatures and regular rainfall. Tropical monsoon climates are most common in southern Asia and West Africa. A monsoon is a wind system that reverses its direction every six months creating a dry season and a wet season.

**2. DRY CLIMATES:** Regions lying with the dry climate group have little precipitation. These climates have grasslands known as savannas or prairies. Although rainfall is limited, there are a few parts of the world where it never rains. These places are considered deserts. One of the driest places on Earth is the Atacama Desert of Chile on the west coast of South America.

**3. MILD CLIMATES:** These areas are also called temperate regions. These places have warm summers and short, mild, and sometimes rainy winters.

**4. CONTINENTAL CLIMATES:** These areas have colder winters, longer-lasting snow, and short growing seasons. They are between MILD and POLAR climates. These places experience extreme seasonal changes, very warm summers and very cold winters. These climates only exist in the Northern Hemisphere.

**5. POLAR CLIMATES:** There are two types of polar climates; TUNDRA and ICE CAP. In tundra climates, summers are short, but plants and animals are plentiful. Few living things exist in the ice cap climates of the Arctic and Antarctic. Temperatures rarely rise above freezing, even in the summer. Skies are mostly clear and precipitation in low all year. In fact, Antarctica, covered by an ice cap a mile thick, is actually on of the largest, driest deserts on Earth.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Climates** | **Description from Reading** | **Notes from Video** |
| **Tropical** |  |  |
| **Dry** |  |  |
| **Mild** |  |  |
| **Continental** |  |  |
| **Polar** |  |  |