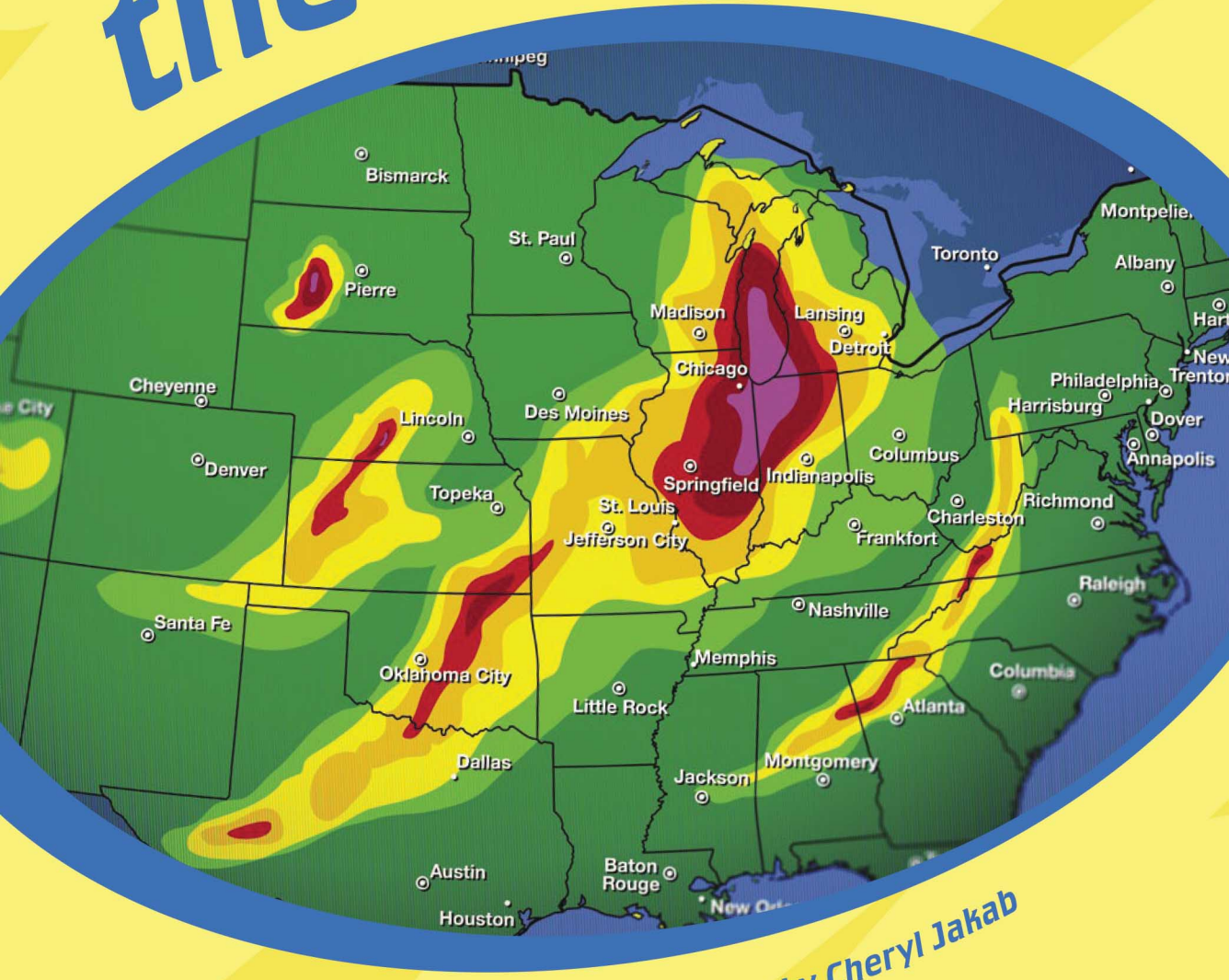
TALK ABOUT TEXTS

Predicting the Weather



Written by Cheryl Jakab

Predicting the Weather



For Review Only

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What Will the Weather Be?

If we go outside, we can check the weather right now. Is it raining or is it dry? Is it hot or cold? We can also predict what other weather will happen today. Are there dark clouds? Is the sun shining?

But can you tell what the weather will be like tomorrow? **Meteorologists** are scientists who study the weather. They can tell us what the weather will be like in the future.



Weather reports use information from meteorologists to predict the weather.

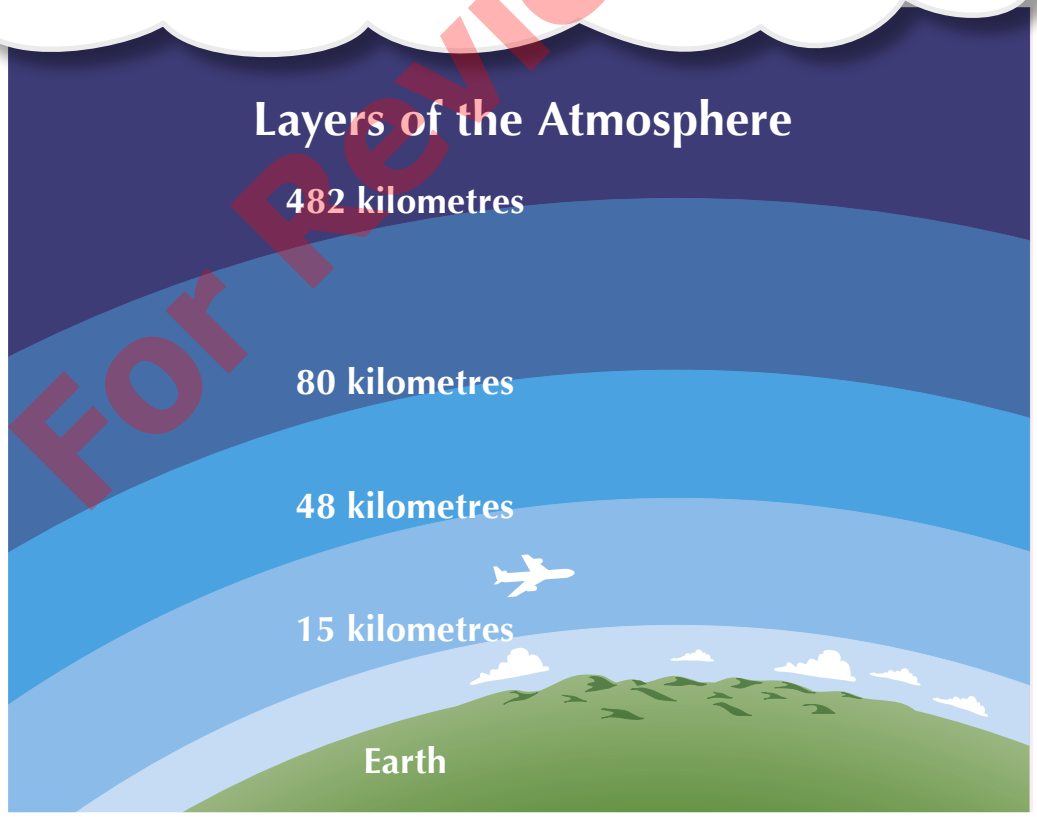
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What is Weather?

Weather is what is happening in the **atmosphere** day by day. For example, the weather in Melbourne, Australia, on a Monday morning might be cold and windy.

Atmosphere

The air around Earth is called the atmosphere. Beyond the atmosphere is space. All weather happens in the layers of the atmosphere closest to Earth.



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The weather in Melbourne is different every day and in every season.

When we talk about weather, we talk about four things:

- temperature (how hot or cold the air is)
- humidity (how much water is in the air)
- precipitation (rain, hail and snow)
- wind.

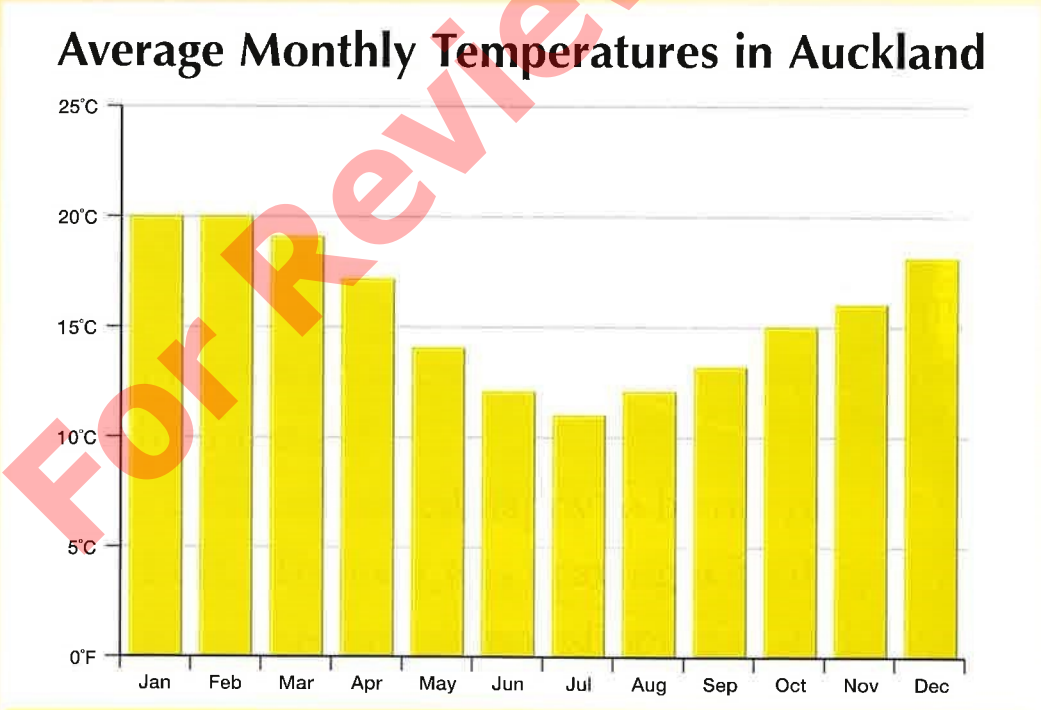
The average weather that happens over time in a place is known as its climate. For example, Melbourne's climate includes cool, wet winters and warm, dry summers.

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Temperature

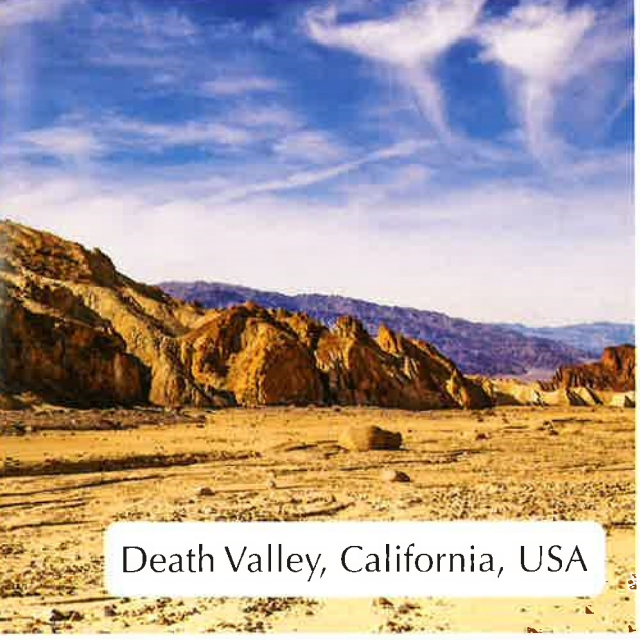
Temperature is how hot or cold the air is. The sun affects the temperature in an area. It heats up the land, water and atmosphere. In summer, the temperature of a place is higher and the weather is often sunny. In winter, the temperature is lower.

Other factors change the temperature, too. Wind can make the air warmer or cooler, as can the ocean.

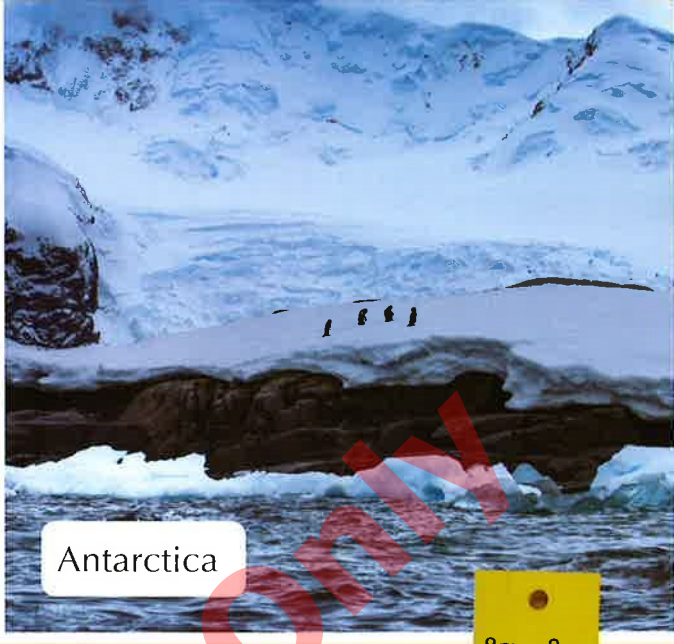


The summer months (December–February) in Auckland, New Zealand, have higher temperatures than the winter months (June–August).

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Death Valley, California, USA



Antarctica

Death Valley, California, USA, reached the highest recorded temperature of 56.7°C in 1913. Antarctica recorded the lowest ever temperature of –94.7°C in 2010.



Measuring Temperature

We use a thermometer to measure temperature. The thermometer measures heat or cold in degrees on the Celsius scale (°C) or the Fahrenheit scale (°F).

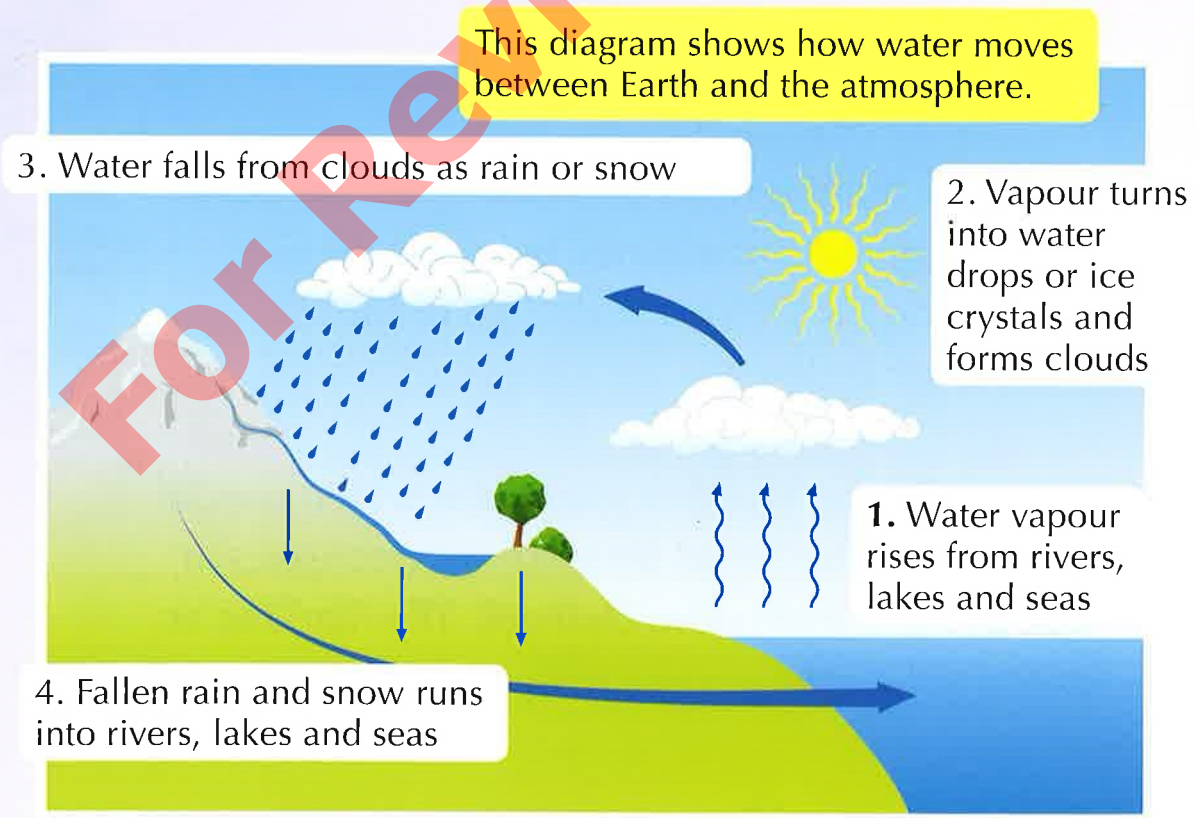
A thermometer is a thin glass tube with a special liquid in it. The liquid increases or decreases in size as the temperature changes. The marking at its top shows the correct temperature.

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Humidity and Precipitation

Humidity is how much water is in the air. Precipitation is the water that falls to the ground as rain, hail or snow. Humidity and precipitation affect the weather.

Air contains **water vapour**. Water vapour comes from rivers, lakes and the sea. The vapour in the air rises and turns into tiny water drops or ice crystals. It forms clouds. When there is a lot of water in a cloud, it rains, hails or snows.



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