Weather Vocabulary List

1. **Atmosphere**-The blanket of gases that surround the earth.
2. **Weather**- What the lower atmosphere is like at any given place and time.
3. **Climate-**Average weather over many years in a location on earth.
4. **Meteorologist-** The person who studies weather.
5. **Air pressure-** The force put on a given area by the weight of the air above it.
6. **Land breeze**- Wind blows from land to sea.
7. **Sea breeze-** Wind blows from sea to land.
8. **Wind speed**-Wind speed is the measure motion of the air with respect to the surface of the earth covering a unit distance over a unit time.
9. **Wind direction**-an indicator of the direction that the wind is coming from.
10. **Precipitation**-any form of water particles that fall from the atmosphere and reach the ground.
11. **Temperature**-measure of the heat of an environment.
12. **Anemometer**- An instrument that measures wind speed.
13. **Rain** **gauge**- An instrument that measures rainfall.
14. **Wind** **vane**- An instrument used to indicate wind direction.
15. **Thermometer**- An instrument for measuring temperature.
16. **Barometer**-the instrument that measure air pressure.
17. **Cumulus** **cloud**- Puffy clouds that appear to rise up from a flat bottom.
18. **Stratus cloud**-A low, gray, often dark cloud that forms blanket-like layers.
19. **Nimbostratus cloud**- dark, low-level clouds accompanied by light to moderately falling precipitation.
20. **Cirrus cloud**- Clouds that form at very high altitudes out of ice crystals and have a wispy, featherlike shape.
21. **Cumulonimbus cloud**- Clouds are associated with heavy rain, snow, hail, lightning and even tornadoes.
22. **Air Mass-** A large region of the atmosphere where the air has similar properties throughout.
23. **Front**- A narrow boundary forming between two air masses of different temperatures.
24. **Cold front**- When cold air moves in under a warm air mass. This usually brings storms and winds, and later the sky is clear, and the weather is cold and dry.
25. **Warm front**- When warm air moves in over a cold air mass. This usually brings light, steady rain, or snow, sometimes fog. Afterwards the weather is usually warmer and more humid
26. **Stationary front**- A front between warm and cold air masses that is moving very slowly or not at all
27. **Occluded front**- A front formed when a cold front overtakes a warm front and forces it higher up.
28. **Hemisphere**- The halves into [which](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/which) the earth is divided.
29. **Latitude**- The measure of how far north or south a place is from the equator.
30. **Longitude**- The measure of how far east or west a place is from the Prime Meridian.
31. **Trade Winds**- A belt of winds around the earth moving from high pressure zones towards the low pressure at the equator.
32. **Westerlies**-Winds from the west toward the east in the mid-lattitudes in the northern and southern hemispheres.
33. **Coriolis Effect**- The curving of the path of a moving object caused by earth’s rotation.
34. **Jet** **stream**- It is the boundary between the arctic air and the tropical air. IT is a fast flowing, narrow air current found in the upper atmosphere.
35. **El Nino-** Abnormal warming of surface ocean waters.
36. **La Nina-** Abnormal cooling of surface ocean waters.
37. **Gulf Stream**- The gulf stream is an intense warm ocean current (it moves north along the coast of Florida and then turns eastward off of North Carolina flowing northeast across the Atlantic).
38. **Hurricane**- Very large swirling storm with low pressure at the center. They form over tropical oceans near the equator.
39. **Tornado**- Violent whirling wind that moves across the ground in a narrow path.
40. **High pressure system-** A pattern surrounding a high pressure center from which winds blow outward. In the northern hemisphere these winds curve to the right in a clockwise pattern.
41. **Low Pressure System-** A pattern surrounding a low pressure center in which winds blow in towards the center. In the northern hemisphere, these winds blow to the right in a counterclockwise pattern.