

Module: Physical Geography
Topic Content: Weather Phenomena

Weather Phenomena



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There are several types of weather phenomena that are unique to specific regions. These weather events can influence the climate and how people live. Click each image to learn more.

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Monsoons



Monsoons

Winds that impact rainfall in South and Southeast Asia

Wet monsoon occurs during the summer

Dry monsoon occurs during the winter

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Monsoons are seasonal winds that impact the amount of rainfall in the regions of South and Southeast Asia. The wet monsoon occurs during the summer and brings heavy precipitation, while the dry monsoon occurs during the winter. The word “monsoon” is commonly used to describe the heavy rains that accompany the wet monsoon, but it is more accurately used to describe the seasonal wind patterns.

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Hurricanes



Hurricanes are tropical cyclones that occur in either the Atlantic Ocean or eastern Pacific Ocean. These storms are characterized by strong winds and heavy rain, and generally occur between late summer and early autumn. Hurricanes impact the Caribbean, parts of Central America, the Gulf of Mexico, and the eastern coast of the United States.

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Typhoons



Typhoons are tropical cyclones that occur in the western Pacific Ocean. Like hurricanes, these storms are characterized by strong winds and heavy rain. The only difference is the region where the storm occurs. Typhoons typically impact Southeast Asia, the Philippines, Japan, the Korean Peninsula, and the coast of China.

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Tornadoes

Tornadoes

Windstorm that appears as a funnel-shaped cloud

Occur in the Midwestern and Southern United States



[View Map](#)

A tornado is violent mobile windstorm that appears as a funnel-shaped cloud. Typically, tornadoes occur in the Midwestern and Southern regions of the United States.

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Influence on Climate and Culture



Influence on Climate	Influence on Culture
<p>The frequency and severity of weather phenomena can contribute to the climate of a region.</p> <p>An increase in the number of hurricanes means an increase in annual precipitation.</p>	<p>Weather phenomena also influence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ how people grow food;▪ how people dress;▪ how people build homes; and▪ how people prepare for emergencies.

Although these weather phenomena are not technically considered part of an area's climate, their frequency and severity can contribute to the climate of a region. For instance, an increase in the number of hurricanes means an increase in annual precipitation. These storms also influence how the local people grow their food, how they dress, how they build their homes, and how they prepare for emergencies. Consider how weather phenomena influence the region where you live.