

Day 1 – Weather & Climate

- Read **page 11**.
- Review the vocabulary words **weather, climate, and elevation**.
- Discuss the difference between **weather** (daily conditions) and **climate** (weather over a long period of time).
- Study the **North America Climate Regions** map.
- Discuss the four climate regions: **tropical, temperate, desert, and arctic**.
- Choose one vocabulary word, **draw a picture**, and write a **complete sentence** using the word.

Weather relates to the daily conditions outside such as hot or rainy. **Climate** is the weather a place has over a long period. A region's climate consists of temperature (how hot or cold it is), precipitation (the amount of rain or snow that falls), and wind.

Climate Regions

A region's climate depends on its location on Earth. Places located close to the equator get more direct sunlight. Places far from the equator get less direct sunlight.

Bodies of water shape the climate of places near them and affect the amount of rain that falls. They also change the temperature since they warm and cool more slowly than land. Winds that blow from the water cool the land in summer. Winds that blow from the water warm the land in winter. The **elevation**, or the height of land above sea level, affects climate, too. High places and mountains are cool most of the year.

The map shows North America's climate regions. Arctic climates are mostly cold. Tropical climates are mostly wet and hot. Temperate climates are not as cold as arctic climates or as hot as tropical climates. Most of the United States is in a temperate climate region. However, parts of the West have dry desert climates where there is little rainfall. Temperatures may be hot during the day and cold at night.

