

Lesson 1: Resource Sheet 1

Weather and climate

What is the difference between weather and climate?

To understand the difference, consider the following: climate is what we expect; weather is what we get.

Climate is about long-term records, trends and averages, whereas **weather** is what we actually experience from day to day.

- **Weather:** Weather is the state of the atmosphere (the air around us) at a particular time and place. It includes all the daily changes in temperature, precipitation (including rainfall and snow), wind, sunshine and humidity (the amount of moisture in the air).
- **Climate:** Climate, on the other hand, is the average weather experienced in a place over many years. The climate of a place depends on: its latitude; its altitude (height above sea level); its aspect (that is, the direction in which it faces); how close it is to the sea; ocean currents; and the season.

The factors contributing to this long-term pattern of temperature and precipitation are outlined on *Resource Sheet 2*.

