



The Sun and Earth's Climate
<http://beyondweather.ehe.osu.edu>

All About Earth's Climate by Jessica Fries-Gaither

Look out the window. Is it sunny? Or maybe it's raining. This is called the weather. Weather is what Earth's air is like at a certain time and place.

Weather can be different. The weather might be different far away from you.

Weather can change. One day it might be warm and sunny. The next day, it might be cooler and rainy.

Weather is not the same as climate. Weather tells us what is happening right now. Climate tells us what a place is like over a long time.

Pretend you are going on a trip. Climate can help you know what to pack in your suitcase. Weather helps you know what to wear when you get there.

What is Climate?

Earth's climate is complicated. You need to know about the Sun to understand climate. You also need to know about Earth's air, land, and water.

The Sun's light shines on Earth. The energy from the light makes Earth warm.

Flesch-Kincaid RL = 1.9



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Gases in the air trap some of the energy. Land traps some, too. So do the oceans. The energy makes the air, land, and water warm.

Some parts of the Earth get warmer than others. Places with snow and ice don't get very warm. Places with forests or dark soil get warmer. The oceans also get warm.

This energy makes wind. It makes our weather. It helps water and air move around the world. It makes our Earth just right for us!