

Weather and Climate Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Weather and Climate trivia brings together the fast-changing conditions of the atmosphere and the longer-term patterns that define climate across regions and eras. From ancient efforts to predict storms to modern satellite forecasting and climate research, it offers a family-friendly way to test what you know about temperatures, clouds, extremes, and the systems that shape life on Earth.

HARD WEATHER AND CLIMATE TRIVIA

1. In U.S. tornado rating history, what year marked the official switch from the original Fujita Scale to the Enhanced Fujita Scale?

Answer: 2007

2. On the original Fujita Scale, what was the highest tornado rating available?

Answer: F5

3. The Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale ignores storm surge and classifies storms using what single metric?

Answer: Sustained wind speed

4. True or false: a storm can qualify as a blizzard because of snowfall amount alone, even without strong winds or poor visibility.?

Answer: False

5. Forecasters tossing around the acronym CAPE are referring to what full phrase?

Answer: Convective Available Potential Energy

6. What is the name of the atmospheric boundary separating the troposphere from the stratosphere?

Answer: The tropopause

7. If you're tracking most everyday clouds, rain, and local weather systems, which atmospheric layer are you mainly dealing with?

Answer: The troposphere

8. The ozone layer is concentrated primarily in which atmospheric layer?

Answer: The stratosphere

9. What does the meteorological abbreviation ITCZ expand to?

Answer: Intertropical Convergence Zone

10. In the Northern Hemisphere, the trade winds generally blow from which direction?

Answer: The northeast

11. Which named effect explains why the leeward side of a mountain range is often markedly drier than the windward side?

Answer: The rain shadow effect

12. When a cold front catches up to and overtakes a warm front, what type of front results?

Answer: An occluded front

13. On a weather map, what compact symbol system is used to plot local observations at individual locations?

Answer: A station model

14. Lines drawn through points of equal atmospheric pressure are called what?

Answer: Isobars

FUNNY WEATHER AND CLIMATE TRIVIA

1. In the old sailor saying, what comes at night to supposedly make mariners smile about the forecast?

Answer: Red sky at night.

2. In a hurricane, which part usually has the strongest winds: the eye or the eye wall?

Answer: The eye wall.

3. What is the name for precipitation that starts the trip but evaporates before it can actually clock in at the ground?

Answer: Virga.

4. What kind of icy troublemaker forms in strong thunderstorm updrafts?

Answer: Hail.

5. In U.S. weather reports, sleet means what, exactly?

Answer: Ice pellets.

6. Which type of precipitation makes liquid drops that turn into glaze ice when they hit cold surfaces?

Answer: Freezing rain.

7. What do you call a small rotating column of air that usually forms in fair weather, basically nature's tiny spin class?

Answer: A dust devil.

8. A tornado-like vortex over water is called what?

Answer: A waterspout.

9. What name is given to the calm belt near the equator, where the wind can seem to have taken a personal day?

Answer: The doldrums.

10. An intense dust storm, especially in arid regions, goes by what memorable name?

Answer: A haboob.

11. What is a thunderstorm called when snow falls instead of rain, because the forecast

wanted extra drama?

Answer: Thundersnow.

12. That earthy smell after rain is not your imagination or a poetic side effect. What is it called?

Answer: Petrichor.

13. What is the name for frost that forms when water vapor freezes directly onto surfaces?

Answer: Hoarfrost.

FUN WEATHER AND CLIMATE TRIVIA

1. Who kicked off the famous atmospheric CO2 record at Mauna Loa in 1958?

Answer: Charles David Keeling began the famous atmospheric CO2 record at Mauna Loa in 1958.

2. The long-running atmospheric CO2 record is measured at what Hawaiian site?

Answer: It is measured at Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii.

3. Which scientist identified in 1859 that gases like water vapor and carbon dioxide absorb heat?

Answer: John Tyndall identified that gases such as water vapor and carbon dioxide absorb heat in 1859.

4. In what year was the Charney Report on climate sensitivity published?

Answer: The Charney Report on climate sensitivity was published in 1979.

5. Who developed the original Fujita tornado scale in 1971?

Answer: Tetsuya Theodore Fujita developed the original Fujita tornado scale in 1971.

6. Orbital-cycle explanations of ice ages are most associated with whom?

Answer: Milutin Milankovitch is known for orbital-cycle explanations of ice ages.

7. Lord Kelvin was actually the title of which physicist?

Answer: Lord Kelvin was the title of physicist William Thomson.

8. Which famous headland sits near one of the stormiest sea routes on Earth?

Answer: Cape Horn lies near one of the stormiest sea routes in the world.

9. Which hurricane struck the U.S. Gulf Coast in 2005?

Answer: Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. Gulf Coast in 2005.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE FAMILY TRIVIA

1. In what year did Sir Francis Beaufort introduce the Beaufort scale?

Answer: 1805

2. Who invented the mercury barometer in 1643?

Answer: Evangelista Torricelli

3. Which scientist is often credited with an early thermoscope, a forerunner of the

thermometer?

Answer: Galileo Galilei

4. Anders Celsius first published his temperature scale in which year?

Answer: 1742

5. What year marks the introduction of Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit's temperature scale?

Answer: 1724

6. In the mid-latitudes, the jet stream generally moves in which direction?

Answer: West to east

7. Which cloud type is most commonly linked with thunderstorms?

Answer: Cumulonimbus

8. What is the calm center of a mature tropical cyclone called?

Answer: The eye

9. How many categories are on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale?

Answer: Five

10. Which engineer helped create the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale?

Answer: Herbert Saffir

11. Which meteorologist co-created the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale?

Answer: Robert Simpson

12. What do meteorologists call the temperature at which air becomes saturated with water vapor?

Answer: The dew point

EASY WEATHER AND CLIMATE TRIVIA

1. What instrument measures atmospheric pressure?

Answer: A barometer measures atmospheric pressure.

2. If you want to check wind speed, which tool would you use?

Answer: An anemometer is used to measure wind speed.

3. The Celsius temperature scale is named after which person?

Answer: The Celsius temperature scale is named after Anders Celsius.

4. Who gave his name to the Fahrenheit temperature scale?

Answer: The Fahrenheit temperature scale is named after Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit.

5. Which continent is the coldest on Earth?

Answer: Antarctica is the coldest continent on Earth.

6. What is the largest hot desert on Earth?

Answer: The Sahara is the largest hot desert on Earth.

7. Death Valley is found in which desert region?

Answer: Death Valley is located in the Mojave Desert region.

8. The Beaufort wind scale is named after whom?

Answer: The Beaufort wind scale is named after Francis Beaufort.

9. Which U.S. television network is devoted largely to weather forecasts?

Answer: The Weather Channel is a U.S. television network devoted largely to weather forecasts.

10. What do we call liquid water that falls from clouds?

Answer: Rain is liquid water that falls from clouds.

11. What is it called when ice crystals grow in clouds and fall to the ground?

Answer: Snow forms when ice crystals grow in clouds and fall to the ground.

12. What is a cloud at ground level called?

Answer: Fog is a cloud at ground level.

13. What is the bright flash produced by an electrical discharge in the atmosphere?

Answer: Lightning is the flash produced by an electrical discharge in the atmosphere.

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/weather-and-climate>