

Components of Weather

By Rafael Suazo

Have you ever wondered what makes up weather? Some **components**, or parts, of weather are temperature, precipitation and wind. These elements work together to make the weather happen.

Temperature is one of the components of weather. The temperature of your climate depends on where you are on Earth. It's always warmer at the equator than at the North or South Pole because the sun's rays hit the equator more directly. Similarly, the temperature is always cooler at dawn than in the afternoon. The reason for this is because the sun is right over you in the afternoon and is hitting you more directly than at dawn when it is just rising.



Differences in temperatures cause wind to form. **Wind** is another major part of the weather. The wind moves other components of weather, such as clouds and precipitation. Cities that are near the ocean are often very windy because the temperature of the air above the ocean is colder than the air over the land. These cities experience sea breezes everyday because there are always differences in temperature between the land and sea. This is because land heats and cools much faster than the water in the ocean does.



Another component of weather is **precipitation**. Precipitation is the water that falls from the clouds. **Rain** is a form of precipitation. Others forms of precipitation are snow, hail and **sleet**. The temperature affects what type of precipitation will fall.



Now you know some important components of the weather. Next time you watch the weather on the news you will know what the weatherman is talking about when he mentions temperature, wind and precipitation.