

## The Difference Between Weather and Climate

Snow storms, daily high and low temperatures, rain showers and sunshine are all examples of weather. Everyday weathermen predict what the weather will be like for the next week or so. Sometimes their forecasts change from day to day because the weather is always changing and is hard to predict.

Weather is not only predicted, it is also measured, felt and observed everyday. Some days it is stormy, some days it is unusually hot or cold and some days the weather is calm. Weather happens all over the world in many, many different ways.

Although it is difficult to predict what the exact weather will be on a particular day, weathermen, and even you, always know the climate of where you live. The **climate** of an area is what its general weather is like over long, long periods of time.

Here's an example of what climate is. Boston has four **seasons**. The summer is hot, the fall is cool, the winter is cold and snowy and the spring is warm. If a tourist was wondering what the weather might be like in January they could expect the weather to be cold and snowy. This means that in Boston in January we can expect it to be cold and possibly snowy, but in July we can expect it to be hot and sunny.

In Hawaii, however, it is hot year round because it is near the equator. We know that the weather will probably be hot in January. What we don't know is what the exact temperature will be on a random day or how much it will snow or rain. These daily measurements are the **weather**.

Now you know the difference between climate and weather. Can you describe the weather today? Can you describe the climate of your city?