

Air Masses

Fronts = Boundary between air masses. Different types produce different weather patterns. Examples: Cold, Warm, Stationary, Occluded

Air Mass Movement = Move with the global pattern of winds. In US from west to east with the jet stream.

Air Mass = Large volume of air in which temperature and humidity are nearly the same in different locations at the same altitude.

Formed when air sits in one place for many days and takes on the characteristics of the land or water below it

Air Masses affecting U.S. = Maritime polar in North West and North East. Continental Polar in Mid North. Maritime tropical in the South West and South East. Continental tropical in the Mid South

Characteristics = Depends on the region that the air mass comes from. Each category is named for moisture and temperature.

Types = Maritime Polar - Moist, Cool  
Maritime Tropical - Moist, Warm  
Continental Polar - Dry, Cool  
Continental Tropical - Dry, Warm

Temperature and density = Warm air is less dense than cool air and rises above the cool air this usually causes clouds to occur