

Meteorology Basics

Meteorology · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. What is the primary source of energy for Earth's weather?

- A) The Moon
- B) The Sun**
- C) Volcanic heat
- D) Ocean currents

2. Which gas makes up the largest percentage of Earth's atmosphere?

- A) Oxygen
- B) Carbon dioxide
- C) Nitrogen**
- D) Argon

3. What instrument is used to measure air temperature?

- A) Barometer
- B) Anemometer
- C) Thermometer**
- D) Hygrometer

4. What type of cloud is often described as fluffy and white like cotton balls?

- A) Stratus
- B) Cirrus
- C) Cumulus**
- D) Nimbus

5. What do we call the state of the atmosphere at a specific time and place?

- A) Climate
- B) Weather**
- C) Geography
- D) Ecology

6. Which instrument measures atmospheric pressure?

- A) Barometer**
- B) Rain gauge
- C) Wind vane
- D) Anemometer

7. What is frozen rain that falls during a thunderstorm called?

- A) Snow
- B) Sleet
- C) Hail**
- D) Dew

8. What is the term for water vapor turning into liquid water droplets?

- A) Evaporation
- B) Condensation**
- C) Sublimation
- D) Precipitation

9. Which instrument is used to measure wind speed?

- A) Anemometer**
- B) Wind vane
- C) Barometer
- D) Thermometer

10. What is the name of the layer of the atmosphere where most weather occurs?

- A) Mesosphere
- B) Stratosphere
- C) Thermosphere
- D) Troposphere**

11. What do we call a giant, rotating storm that forms over warm ocean waters?

- A) Tornado
- B) Hurricane**
- C) Blizzard
- D) Drought

12. What is the process called when liquid water turns into water vapor?

- A) Condensation
- B) Freezing
- C) Evaporation**
- D) Melting

13. Which type of precipitation falls as ice crystals in cold weather?

- A) Rain
- B) Drizzle
- C) Snow**
- D) Mist

14. What is a wind vane used to determine?

- A) Wind speed
- B) Air pressure
- C) Wind direction**
- D) Temperature

15. What is the term for the amount of water vapor in the air?

- A) Humidity**
- B) Visibility
- C) Pressure
- D) Density

16. Which cloud type typically forms a low, grey blanket covering the sky?

- A) Cumulus
- B) Cirrus
- C) Stratus**
- D) Cumulonimbus

17. What is a funnel-shaped cloud that touches the ground called?

- A) Tornado**
- B) Cyclone
- C) Typhoon
- D) Hurricane

18. What is the common term for a bright flash of light caused by an electric discharge in the atmosphere?

- A) Thunder
- B) Lightning**
- C) Aurora
- D) Rainbow