

Weather versus Climate

The Weather

- **Weather** describes what the atmosphere is like at a specific time and place.
- Weather is made up of factors including air temperature, pressure, fog, humidity, cloud cover, precipitation, and wind.
- Most of the time, the weather is different every day.

Study Tip

Think of the weather as the short-term atmospheric conditions of an area, and the climate as the long-term atmospheric conditions of an area.

The Climate

- The **climate** of a region is the long-term average weather of a particular spot. It is often more predictable than the weather.
- The climate usually changes slowly, and is usually affected by factors like the angle of the Sun and the amount of cloud cover in the region.



Hawaii is often suitable for vacations because the climate of this region is desirable, although at times the weather might be bad!



In places where the weather is unstable, the status of the atmosphere can change in a matter of minutes.

Concept Check

- What is weather? What factors make up weather?
- What is climate?