

Glencoe Earth Science Chapter 11 Vocab

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1. Cirrus	High clouds made up of ice crystals that form at heights of 6000 m
2. Coalescence	Process that occurs when cloud droplets collide and form larger droplets, which eventually become too heavy to remain aloft and can fall to Earth as precipitation
3. Condensation Nucleus	Small particle in the atmosphere around which cloud droplets can form.
4. Conduction	The transfer of thermal energy between objects in contact by the collisions between the particles in the objects
5. Convection	The transfer of thermal energy by the movement of heated material from one place to another
6. Cumulus	Puffy, lumpy-looking clouds that usually occur below 2000 m
7. Dew Point	Temperature to which air is cooled at a constant pressure to reach saturation, at which point condensation can occur
8. Exosphere	Outermost layer of Earth's atmosphere that is located above the thermosphere with no clear boundary at the top; transitional region between Earth's atmosphere and outer space
9. Humidity	Amount of water vapor in the atmosphere at a given location on Earth's surface
10. Latent Heat	Stored energy in water vapor that is not released to warm the atmosphere until condensation takes places
11. Mesosphere	Layer of Earth's atmosphere above the Stratosphere
12. Orographic Lifting	Cloud formation that occurs when warm, moist air is forced to rise up the side of a mountain
13. Precipitation	All solid and liquid forms of waterincluding rain, snow, sleet, and hailthat fall from clouds
14. Radiation	The transfer of thermal energy by electromagnetic waves; the transfer of thermal energy from the Sun to Earth by radiation
15. Relative Humidity	Ratio of water vapor contained in a specific volume of air compared with how much water vapor that amount of air actually can hold; expressed as a percentage
16. Saturation	The point at which water molecules leaving the water's surface equals the rate of water molecules returning to the surface

17. Stratosphere	Layer of Earth's atmosphere that is located above the tropopause and is made up primarily of concentrated ozone
18. Stratus	A layered sheetlike cloud that covers much or all of the sky in a given area
19. Temperature Inversion	Increase in temperature with height in an atmospheric layer which inverts the temperature-altitude relationship and can worsen air-pollution problems
20. Thermosphere	Layer of Earth's atmosphere that is located above the mesopause; oxygen atoms absorb solar radiation causing the temperature to increase in this layer
21. Troposphere	Layer of the atmosphere closest to Earth's surface, found in which most weather takes place and air pollution collects