

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# What is Climate?



Weather is what is currently happening with the sun, the temperature, the wind and the precipitation outside in the air between the clouds and the ground. Climate is different than weather. Climate is what weather is like for long periods of time. Long periods of time for climate usually refers to what the weather is like for over three decades or 30 years. Climate is what the patterns of long term weather are in any particular region. Climate refers to the average temperatures and sunshine over 30 years for a specific region. Climate refers to the average rainfall or precipitation over a specific region over a long period of time. Climate refers to the average wind and wind speed over longer periods of time. Climate refers to the weather averages over long periods of time. Weather helps us decide what we wear each day but climate helps us decide what types of clothing we need for each season. Different regions have different climates, one region might have long, hot, humid summers and another season might have long, hot, dry summers. There are many factors that affect climate: the sun and how close the region is to the equator, (latitude) distance from the oceans, wind, type of land and clouds. The main difference between climate and weather is that weather is referring to short term and climate is referring to long term. The rain forest is a region that has a wet and warm climate yet the desert has a dry and hot climate and the polars have a climate that has long and cold winters.

## Questions:

- ① In your own words, define climate.
- ② What is the difference between climate and weather?
- ③ What factors can affect climate?
- ④ Describe what the climate is like where you live.
- ⑤ Why does the equator affect climate?
- ⑥ Describe the climate for the 4 seasons where you live.