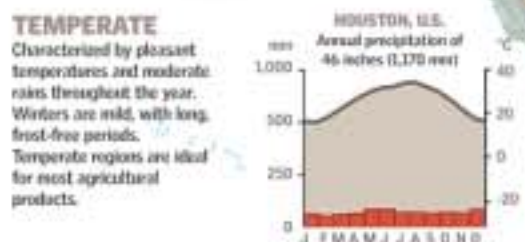
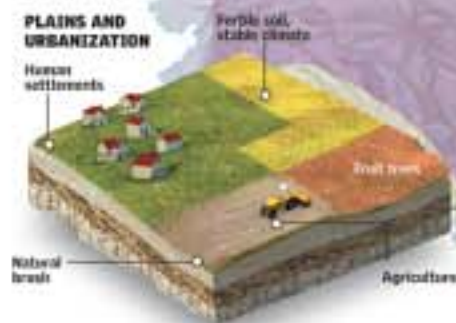
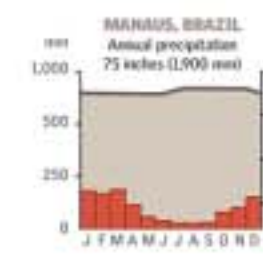


Climate Zones

Different places in the world, even if far removed from each other, can be grouped into climate zones—that is, into regions that are homogeneous relative to climatic elements, such as temperature, pressure, rain, and humidity. There is some disagreement among climatologists about the number and description of each of these regions, but the illustrations given on this map are generally accepted.



TEMPERATE
Characterized by pleasant temperatures and moderate rains throughout the year. Winters are mild, with long frost-free periods. Temperate regions are ideal for most agricultural products.

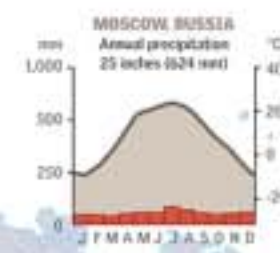
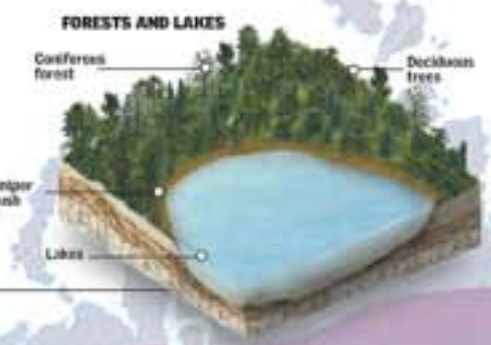
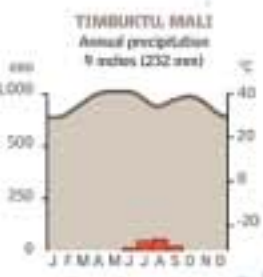


Temperature and Rains
The temperature of the Earth depends on the energy from the Sun, which is not distributed equally at all latitudes. Only 5 percent of sunlight reaches the surface at the poles, whereas this figure rises to 75 percent at the Equator. Rain is an atmospheric phenomenon. Clouds contain millions of drops of water, which collide to form larger drops. The size of the drops increases until they are too heavy to be supported by air currents, and they fall as rain.

59° F (15° C)
is the average annual temperature of the Earth.



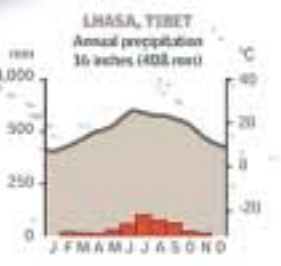
DRY
Lack of rain controls the arid climate in desert or semidesert regions, the result of the atmospheric circulation of air. In these regions, dry air descends, leaving the sky clear, with many hours of burning Sun.



COLD
Very cold winters, with frequent freezing at night, are typical of these regions. In these zones, the climate changes more often than anywhere else. In most cold climate regions, the landscape is covered by natural vegetation.



POLAR MOUNTAINOUS CLIMATE
Mountains create their own climate that is somewhat independent of their location. Near the poles, the polar climate is dominated by very low temperatures, strong and irregular winds, and almost perpetual snow. The mountain peaks lack vegetation.



Köppen Climate Classification

In 1936 Russian-born climatologist Wladimir Köppen presented a climatological classification based on temperature and precipitation. The table provides a broad overview of the approximate distribution of climates on the terrestrial globe. Köppen classification does not discuss climatic regions but rather the type of climate found in a given location according to specific parameters.



- KEY**
- Tropical forests, without a dry season
 - Tropical savanna, with a dry winter
 - Steppe (savanna)
 - Desert (arid)
 - Temperate humid, without a dry season
 - Temperate, with a dry winter
 - Temperate, with a dry summer
 - Tundra
 - Glacial
 - Mountain climate
 - Temperate cold continental (hot summer)
 - Temperate cold continental (cold summer)
 - Temperate cold continental (subarctic)