

FOSS Air and Weather Module

Glossary

3rd Edition © 2012

air a mixture of gases that we breathe (SRB, IG)

air resistance when air pushes on an object moving through air and slows the object down. (IG)

anemometer a weather instrument used to measure wind speed (IG)

barrel the cylinder-shaped part of a syringe that the syringe plunger is pushed into (IG)

blow to produce or release air through the mouth (IG)

bubble a pocket of air that forms when a gas rises to the surface of a liquid (IG)

calm a wind classification that describes when there is no wind (IG)

change to make or become different (IG)

cirrus high, thin, stretched-out clouds composed of ice (IG)

cloud a group of very small water drops in the sky. Cirrus, cumulus, and stratus are kinds of clouds. (SRB, IG)

cold an air temperature between 0°C and 10°C (32°F and 50°F) (IG)

compress to squeeze air into a smaller space (IG)

condensation when a gas changes to a liquid (SRB, IG)

cool an air temperature between 10°C and 20°C (50°F and 65°F) (IG)

cumulus big, fluffy, cotton-ball-looking clouds at low to middle heights in the atmosphere (IG)

day when the Sun is in the sky, providing heat and light to Earth (IG)

degrees Celsius the metric unit for measuring temperature (IG)

degrees Fahrenheit a unit for measuring temperature (IG)

describe a way to tell about something using words (IG)

direction the course or line along which something moves, faces, lies or points (IG)

distance how far it is between two points (IG)

dormant sleeping or not growing (SRB)

east a wind that is blowing from the east (IG)

evaporation when a liquid changes to a gas (SRB, IG)

fall the season between summer and winter that lasts for three months after summer; also called autumn (IG)

gas matter that can't be seen but is all around. Air is an example of a gas. (SRB, IG)

gentle breeze a mild gust of wind (IG)

hibernation when animals sleep through the winter (SRB, IG)

hot an air temperature between 30°C and 50°C (80°F and 120°F) (IG)

hurricane a big, strong, wet storm that forms over warm ocean water (SRB)

kite an object usually made of a light wooden or plastic frame covered with paper, plastic, or cloth that is flown in the air at the end of a string. (IG)

matter something that has mass and takes up space (IG)

measure to find the amount of something (SRB, IG)

meteorologist a person who studies the weather (SRB, IG)

migration when animals move when the season changes (SRB, IG)

moderate breeze an average gust of wind (IG)

Moon the object we see in the night sky and sometimes during the day. Some of the Moon shapes we observe and describe are the full Moon, crescent Moon, quarter Moon, and gibbous Moon. (SRB, IG)

move to change place or direction; to put in motion (IG)

natural resource a supply of something in nature. The Sun, soil, and air are natural resources. (SRB)

night when the Sun cannot be seen in the sky and it is dark (IG)

north a wind that is blowing from the north (IG)

overcast when the sky is gray and cloudy, but it is not raining or snowing (IG)

parachute a piece of cloth that catches air to slow a person or object that is falling (IG)

partly cloudy when it is sunny outside but there are lots of clouds in the sky (IG)

pattern when things occur again and again, like the seasons or phases of the Moon (IG)

pinwheel a toy that spins around when the wind blows on it (IG)

plunger the part of a syringe that is pushed into the syringe barrel (IG)

precipitation rain, snow, or hail falling from the clouds (SRB)

pressure a force that acts on compressed air (IG)

push to move something by exerting force (IG)

rain one kind of weather that falls from the clouds as water drops (SRB)

rain gauge a tool used to measure the amount of rainfall (IG)

record to write down information or data (IG)

rocket a vehicle used to launch things into space (IG)

season one of four times of year that has different weather. Winter, spring, summer, and fall are seasons. (SRB, IG)

shadow a dark area made by blocking the light from the Sun (SRB)

snow one kind of weather that happens when it is very cold. Frozen water falls from clouds. (SRB, IG)

south a wind that is blowing from the south (IG)

spring the season between winter and summer that lasts for three months after winter (IG)

star an object in the sky that makes light and heat (SRB, IG)

storm weather that has strong winds and can bring rain or snow (SRB)

stratus huge, expansive layers of gray clouds that hang low and fill the sky (IG)

strong breeze a hard gust of wind (IG)

submerge to put under water (IG)

summer the season between spring and fall that lasts for three months after spring. Also when the North Pole leans toward the Sun, causing the Northern Hemisphere to get more sunshine each day for three months (IG)

sunny when the weather is bright with few or no clouds (IG)

Sun the object we see in the day sky. It warms the land, air, and water. (SRB, IG)

symbol a picture that represents the weather (IG)

syringe a cylinder (barrel) and piston (plunger) system used to draw up, measure and transfer liquids (IG)

system a set of objects that are related in some way and can be isolated for study; a group of things or parts (IG)

temperature a description of how hot or cold something is (SRB, IG)

thermometer a weather instrument used to measure temperature (IG)

tornado a twirling, cloudy, dangerous storm (SRB)

tube a hollow cylinder that acts as a passage for a fluid (IG)

warm an air temperature between 20°C and 30°C (65°F and 80°F) (IG)

water cycle when water from Earth evaporates, condenses into clouds, and falls back to Earth as precipitation (SRB)

water vapor water as a gas (SRB, IG)

weather the condition of the air outdoors (SRB, IG)

weather balloon a balloon that carries weather instruments into the sky (SRB)

weather conditions the state of the weather, such as temperature, cloud type, rainfall, and wind speed and direction (IG)

weather instrument a tool that helps meteorologists measure weather (IG)

west a wind that is blowing from the west (IG)

wind moving air (SRB, IG)

wind speed how fast the air is moving. Wind speed can be measured using an anemometer (IG)

wind vane a weather instrument used to observe the direction of the wind (IG)

winter the season between fall and spring that lasts for three months after fall. Also when the North Pole leans away from the Sun, causing the Northern Hemisphere to get less sunshine each day for three months (IG)