



Exercise: 1

Instructions: Idaho's climate can vary a lot. Our climate is influenced by storm patterns from the Pacific, changes in the jet stream, and is greatly influenced by Idaho's extremely varied topography. There are also many other factors that influence our climate including latitude, altitude, distance from the ocean, and wind. By doing this exercise, you will get an understanding of some of these factors and the general processes that bring about our climate.

1. How does air temperature change with changes in latitude, altitude, and distance from the ocean?
2. Just by looking on a map, can you predict which city has a greater temperature range, Pocatello, Idaho or San Diego, California? How did you decide this?
3. Why is there so much more precipitation in Northern Idaho when compared with Southern Idaho?
4. Why does the climate in Idaho vary so much from place to place?
5. What does it mean to say that the climate in an area is temperate?
6. What is the orographic effect and why does it occur? Could this help to explain why there is so little precipitation in Southern Idaho?
7. If you are standing on top of a tall mountain, which side should receive more rain, the side where the clouds are coming from or the side where the clouds are leaving?
8. What is the hottest temperature recorded in Idaho, what is the coldest? Where did these temperatures occur?