



ANSWER KEY

Exercise: 1

Instructions: There are many things that influence the climate of any area including latitude, altitude, distance from the ocean, and wind. This exercise consists of several basic questions from the general climate section of the Digital Atlas of Idaho. Answer the following questions using the Atlas, the Internet, and your library as sources of information and images (as needed).

1. What is the difference between weather and climate?

Weather changes from day to day, some days it is rainy, some days sunny, some are cold, some are warm. Weather is the daily changes in wind, moisture, and temperature. Climate is a more general term that influences the type of vegetation and habitat that occurs in a region. It refers to the prevailing weather conditions over many years in a particular region.

2. What are the four main things that influence the climate of an area?

Four of the main things that can influence the climate of an area are latitude, altitude, distance from the ocean, and wind.

3. What are the high/low extremes in Idaho for temperature? What are the high and low temperatures in your part of the state?

The highest recorded temperature in Idaho is 118 degrees Fahrenheit. The lowest recorded temperature is minus 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Local extremes will vary.

4. Why is there more precipitation in northern Idaho than southern Idaho?

There are no high mountain ranges to keep the clouds from much of the northern area, so precipitation may be more than four times more compared to the southern part of the state. Southern Idaho is protected on all sides by mountains. For that reason, much of the area receives very little rain or snow and is usually called a desert.

5. What does temperate mean?

Temperate means an area has four seasons with great changes in the average temperatures between summer and winter.