

12-7 What are air masses? (Pages 292-293)

Why does weather change?

Air Masses

**Air Mass: large volume of air with about the same temperature and amount of moisture throughout**

**Polar Air Mass: air mass that forms over cold regions**

What are characteristics of a continental polar (cP) air mass?

- Land
- Dry
- Cold
- Cold, dry air mass

What are characteristics of a maritime polar (mP) air mass?

- Water
- Moist
- Cold
- Cold, moist air mass

**Tropical Air Masses: warm air masses that form near tropics**

What are characteristics of continental tropical (cT) air mass?

- Land
- Dry
- Warm
- Warm, dry air mass

What are characteristics of a maritime tropical (mT) air mass?

- Water
- Moist
- Warm
- Warm, moist air mass

Continental (c) - Land, Dry  
Maritime (m) - Water, Wet

Polar (P) - Cold  
Tropical (T) - Warm

Four kinds of air masses:  
cP, cT, mP, mT

Page 293 Rivers of Air

Jet Streams: rivers of fast-moving air at high altitudes

Effects:

- help propel ships
- help jets save time and fuel if going east
- change weather systems
- can cause monsoons in India