

Use the following definitions to put labels in the boxes below:

AIR MASS- glob of air with the same temperature and moisture throughout

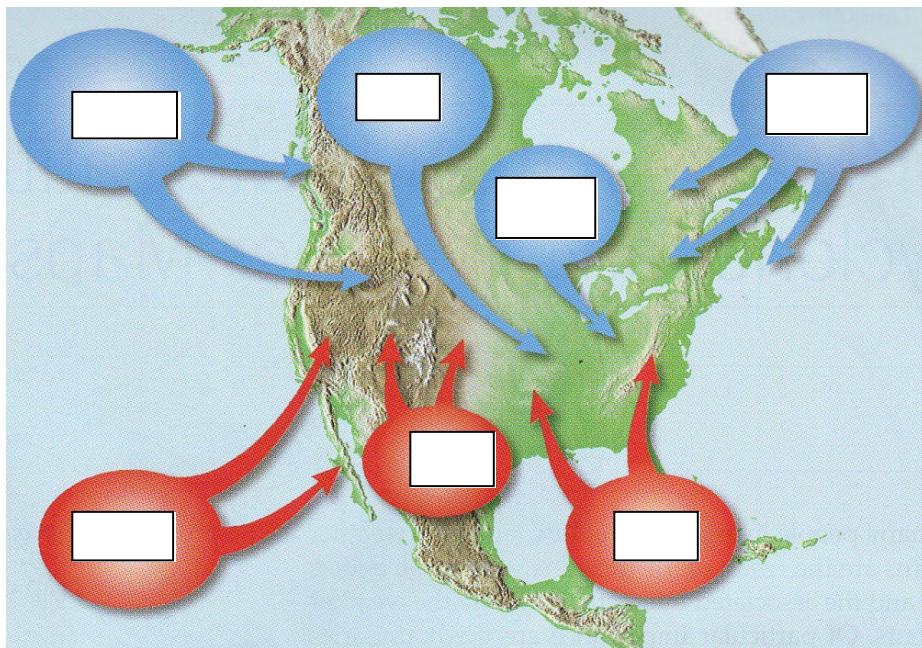
Continental- dry air mass (due to forming over land)

Maritime- wet air mass (due to forming over water)

Polar- cold air mass (due to forming near the poles)

Topical- warm air mass (due to forming near the equator)

This picture shows various air masses on the North America Continent. The circle shows its source region (the place where it is forming), and the arrows show the general direction they usually move. Each air mass gets 2 initials, one for its temperature (either P or T) and one for its humidity (either C or M). Fill in the proper labels for each air mass, then use the picture to answer the questions below.



Fill in the table below:

| Name | Source Region/ Meaning of symbol | Characteristics (temperature & moisture) |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|
| cP | | |
| mP | | |
| cT | | |
| mT | | |

AIR MASSES continued

1. The general movement of air masses across North America is from west to east. What is the name of these global winds?
2. Which air masses would have the greatest influence on the weather east of the Rocky Mountains?
3. Which air mass would supply the greatest amount of moisture east of the Rocky Mountains?
4. Which air mass has the greatest influence on the weather along the northwest Pacific coast?
5. How might this air mass (the one from #5) influence the weather compared to the center portion of America?
6. Describe an air mass which forms over Canada in terms of its temperature and moisture.
7. Describe an air mass that forms over a desert in terms of its temperature and moisture.
8. Describe an air mass that forms over water in the Gulf of Mexico in terms of its temperature and moisture.
9. In the area of the United States, which way do cold air masses move? (North or South)
10. In the area of the United States, which way do warm air masses move? (North or South)
11. Why are Canadian air masses considered to be dry air masses?