GOLDEN PLAYBOX

Everyday Weather Trivia



Questions 1-4 | Circle one answer

1. Which instrument measures air temperature?

A. Barometer
B. Rain gauge
C. Thermometer

2. Which instrument measures atmospheric pressure?

A. Thermometer
B. Barometer
C. Anemometer

3. Which instrument measures wind speed?

A. Anemometer
B. Rain gauge
C. Compass only

4. What does a rain gauge collect and measure?

A. Precipitation
B. Sunshine
C. Air pressure

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Questions 5-8 | Circle one answer

5. What is fog, in simple terms?

A. A cloud at ground level
B. Smoke from every chimney
C. Dry dust only

6. What is water vapor changing into liquid droplets called?

A. Freezing
B. Condensation
C. Melting

7. What is liquid water changing into water vapor called?

A. Condensation
B. Evaporation
C. Freezing

8. What produces the sound of thunder?

A. Clouds bumping together
B. Falling hail alone
C. Rapid expansion of air heated by lightning

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Questions 9-12 | Circle one answer

9. Which type of cloud is often tall and associated with thunderstorms?

A. Ground fog only
B. Cumulonimbus
C. Thin cirrus only

10. Which word describes frozen balls or lumps of precipitation?

A. Dew
B. Mist
C. Hail

11. What is a wind vane mainly used to show?

A. Wind direction
B. Rainfall depth
C. Humidity percentage

12. Which term describes weather patterns over many years?

A. A single shower
B. Today's temperature
C. Climate

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Answer guide 1-4 | Keep with host

1. C. Thermometer

A thermometer measures temperature. Keeping temperature separate from pressure and rainfall makes the other instrument questions easier to approach by elimination.

2. B. Barometer

A barometer measures air pressure. Pressure patterns help forecasters understand weather systems, but one reading alone does not describe the whole forecast.

3. A. Anemometer

An anemometer measures wind speed. A wind vane indicates direction, so the two instruments answer different questions about the same moving air.

4. A. Precipitation

A rain gauge measures collected precipitation. Its reading is expressed as a depth over an area, not as the total water in an entire storm.

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Answer guide 5-8 | Keep with host

5. A. A cloud at ground level

Fog consists of tiny water droplets or ice crystals near the ground. It is related to clouds rather than being another name for ordinary smoke.

6. B. Condensation

Condensation changes water vapor into liquid. The droplets on a cool surface are a familiar example that can help explain cloud formation.

7. B. Evaporation

Evaporation changes liquid water to vapor. It can occur without water reaching its boiling point, as a drying puddle shows on an ordinary day.

8. C. Rapid expansion of air heated by lightning

Lightning heats air very rapidly, and the resulting expansion produces thunder. The old image of clouds colliding is memorable but not the physical explanation.

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Answer guide 9-12 | Keep with host

9. B. Cumulonimbus

Cumulonimbus clouds develop vertically and can bring thunderstorms. Their tall structure distinguishes them from a thin veil of high cloud or a low fog bank.

10. C. Hail

Hail consists of ice formed within storm clouds. It differs from dew, which forms on surfaces, and mist, which consists of tiny suspended droplets.

11. A. Wind direction

A wind vane shows the direction from which the wind blows. Weather descriptions generally name a wind for where it comes from.

12. C. Climate

Climate describes long-term patterns and statistics. Weather describes conditions over shorter periods, so a single cold afternoon does not define an area's climate.