

Weather Glossary

ATMOSPHERE: The gaseous or air portion of the physical environment that encircles a planet.

CONTINENT: A large landmass rising abruptly from the deep ocean floor, including marginal regions that are shallowly submerged.

EQUATOR: The geographic circle a 0 degrees latitude on the earth's surface.

EQUINOX: The point in which the sun is directly over the equator resulting in an equal amount of daylight and nighttime hours.

EYE: The center of a hurricane, characterized by a roughly circular area of light winds and rain free skies.

HORSE LATITUDES: Located between 30 degrees North and 30 degrees South in the vicinity of the equator where the winds are light and calm.

HURRICANE: The name of a tropical cyclone with winds of 74 mph or greater in the North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and in the eastern North Pacific.

INSOLATION: Solar radiation or heating received at the earth's surface.

JET STREAM: Rivers of high-speed air in the atmosphere.

LATITUDE: The location North or South in reference to the equator.

LONGITUDE: The location East or West in reference to the Prime Meridian.

SOLSTICE: The point at which the sun is furthest from the equator.

TYPHOON: The name for a tropical cyclone with winds of 74 mps or greater in the western North Pacific Ocean.