***Chapter 2 Vocabulary***

Air Pressure- the force of air molecules pushing on an area

\*the greater the force, the higher the air pressure

Barometer- instrument that measures air pressure

Weather- the condition of Earth’s atmosphere at a particular time and place

\*wind is an important part of weather

Wind- air that moves horizontally, or parallel to the ground

Global Winds- travel thousands of kilometers in steady patterns

\*last for weeks; move from areas of high to low pressure

Coriolis Effect- the influence the Earth’s rotation has on the wind: prevents winds from flowing directly from the poles to the equator

Jet Stream- winds that flow in the upper troposphere from west to east for thousands of kilometers

Gulf Stream- warm Atlantic Ocean current traveling north and influencing N America’s east coast and Europe’s west coast

Sea Breeze- Land heats faster than ocean during the day, so air over land rises (low pressure) and dense ocean air moves inland (high pressure) to area of low pressure to cool off the land

Land Breeze- Land cools faster than ocean at night, so warm air rises over the ocean (low pressure) and dense cooler air moves toward the sea (high pressure) to area of low pressure

Condensation- gas changes to a liquid; when moist air cools and condenses into water droplets

Evaporation- liquid changes to a gas; Sun’s energy causes water to evaporate from a body of water and becomes water vapor in the air

Precipitation- liquid/solid water falling to Earth’s surface

Humidity- the amount of water vapor in the air

Relative Humidity- how much water vapor is in the air compared to the maximum amount of water vapor could be in the air at the current temperature

Saturation- 100% relative humidity

Dew Point- the temperature at which the air reaches saturation (or 100% relative humidity)

Freezing Rain- when rain drops freeze when they hit the ground or other cold surfaces

Sleet- when rain passes through a cold layer of air and freezes before it hits the ground

Hail- lumps of ice that are common in warm weather; form from falling and getting pushed back up into the atmosphere repeatedly

Acid Rain- rain that has more acid than normal due to pollution

Fog- cloud that rests on the ground or over a body of water

Cumulus- puffy and white with dark bases, like cotton balls; appear in fair weather

Cirrus- form at high altitudes, wispy and feathery, made of ice crystals

Stratus- smooth layers that produce steady, light precipitation

Cumulonimbus- tallest cumulus clouds that produce thunderstorms- heavy rainfall