

## Vocabulary: Weather Maps



### Vocabulary

- Air mass – a large body of air that is similar in temperature, humidity, and *air pressure* throughout.
  - Air masses can measure hundreds or even thousands of miles across.
- Air pressure – the force of air on a surface.
  - Air pressure is equal to the weight of a vertical column of air divided by the area of the base of the column.
  - Air pressure is measured in millibars (mb).
    - At sea level, air pressure averages 1,013 millibars.
- Cold front – the boundary between an advancing mass of relatively cold air and a mass of warmer air.
  - The denser cold air moves below the warm air and pushes it up.
  - Cold fronts often are associated with gusty winds, intense rain, and thunderstorms.
  - On a weather map, a cold front is indicated by a row of triangles.
- High-pressure system – a region in which the atmospheric pressure is higher than in the surrounding areas.
  - High-pressure systems are associated with relatively dry air and sunny weather.
  - High-pressure systems are also known as *anticyclones*.
- Knot – a unit of speed equal to 1.151 miles per hour.
- Low-pressure system – a region in which the atmospheric pressure is lower than in the surrounding areas.
  - Low-pressure systems are associated with relatively moist air and cloudy conditions.
  - Low-pressure systems are also known as *cyclones*.
- Precipitation – water that falls to Earth's surface.
  - Types of precipitation include rain, sleet, snow, hail, and mist.
- Warm front – the boundary between an advancing mass of relatively warm air and a mass of colder air.
  - The warm air moves above the cold air, rising up gradually.
  - Warm fronts are often associated with overcast skies and gentle showers.
  - On a weather map, a warm front is indicated by a row of semicircles.