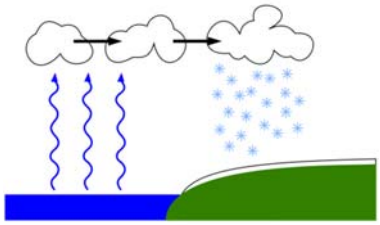
Name _____

Ohio's Weather Wonders: Exploring the Climate Across the State



Have you ever wondered why the weather can be so different from one season to another in Ohio? The state's location and geography contribute to a diverse climate that offers everything from hot summers to snowy winters.

Four Distinct Seasons

One of the defining features of Ohio's climate is its four distinct seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter. Each season brings its own unique weather patterns, temperatures, and outdoor activities.

- **Spring (March to May):** Spring in Ohio is a time of renewal and growth. Temperatures start to rise, and the landscape becomes dotted with colorful flowers. Rain showers are common during this season, helping to nourish the earth and support plant life. Spring is also the season of tornadoes in Ohio, so residents need to stay alert and be prepared for severe weather.
- **Summer (June to August):** Summer in Ohio can be hot and humid. High temperatures often reach the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit (around 26-35 degrees Celsius). This is the season for outdoor adventures, swimming, and enjoying local festivals. Thunderstorms are frequent during the summer months, providing much-needed rain.
- **Fall (September to November):** Fall in Ohio is characterized by cooler temperatures and stunning foliage. Trees transform into vibrant shades of red, orange, and yellow. The weather is generally mild, making it an ideal time for hiking and exploring the outdoors. Fall is also harvest season, with apple and pumpkin picking being popular activities.
- **Winter (December to February):** Winter in Ohio brings cold temperatures and the possibility of snowfall. Northern parts of the state tend to receive more snow, while southern regions experience milder winters. Snowfall provides opportunities for sledding, skiing, and building snowmen. Ohioans are well-prepared for winter weather, with snowplows and salt trucks keeping the roads safe.

Lake Effect Snow

Ohio's climate is also influenced by its proximity to Lake Erie. In the winter, cold air passing over the relatively warmer lake water can create lake-effect snow. This phenomenon results in heavier snowfall along the lake's eastern and southeastern shores, impacting cities like Cleveland and Ashtabula.