

WEATHER VS. CLIMATE

It is important to know the difference between weather and climate. Sometimes people point to a very cold day or a snowstorm and say that the earth is not warming. They are confusing weather and climate.

Weather is how the atmosphere behaves over a short period of time. It includes things like air temperature, wind direction and speed, rain or snow or other precipitation, and atmospheric pressure.

Climate is the weather pattern of a particular area over a relatively long amount of time—at least thirty years, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), though climate data over a much longer period is used when it is available.



Use this chart to keep track of the weather where you live for one week. Gather the information from the local newspaper or news station. If you kept these records for many, many decades, you could get a picture of the climate where you live.

	MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
TIME	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
TEMPERATURE														
WIND DIRECTION														
WIND SPEED														
PRECIPITATION														

