

GLOSSARY

A

air mass large body of air with uniform temperature and moisture content (499)

anemometer instrument used to measure wind speed (509)

anticyclone storm that spirals outward from a high-pressure center (505)

B

bimetal thermometer instrument used to measure temperature, consisting of a bar made of two strips of different metals that curves when heated and straightens when cooled (509)

C

cold front boundary formed where a cold air mass overtakes and lifts a warm air mass (502)

continental polar describing a cold, dry air mass that forms over land in polar regions (500)

continental tropical describing a warm, dry air mass that forms over land in tropical regions (500)

E

electrical thermometer instrument used to measure temperature based on the increased flow of electricity through certain materials when the materials are heated (509)

F

front boundary between air masses of different densities (502)

H

hurricane severe storm that develops over tropical oceans, with strong winds of over 120 km/h that spiral in toward the intensely low-pressure storm center (505)

GLOSSARY

I

isobar line drawn on a weather map connecting points of equal atmospheric pressure (513)

M

maritime polar describing a cold, moist air mass that is formed over the ocean in polar areas (500)

maritime tropical describing a warm, moist air mass that is formed over the ocean in tropical areas (500)

O

occluded front boundary formed where a fast-moving cold air mass overtakes and lifts a warm air mass, completely cutting it off from the ground (503)

M

polar front boundary at which cold polar air meets the warmer air of the middle latitudes (503)

R

radar device that can detect objects and weather conditions in the upper atmosphere by sending and receiving radio waves (511)

S

squall line long line of heavy thunderstorms that may occur just ahead of a fast-moving cold front (502)

station model cluster of weather symbols plotted on a map indicating the weather conditions at a particular reporting station (512)

stationary front boundary formed where two air masses meet and neither is displaced (503)

T

thermograph instrument that measures temperature changes by recording the movement of the bar of a bimetal thermometer (509)

GLOSSARY

thunderstorm storm accompanied by thunder, lightning, and strong winds (506)

tornado whirling, funnel-shaped cyclone (507)

typhoon hurricane that forms over the Pacific Ocean (505)

● W

warm front boundary formed where a warm air mass overtakes and rises over a cold air mass (502)

waterspout tornado that occurs over the ocean (508)

wave cyclone large storm that develops along cold or stationary fronts, with winds that spiral in toward a central region of low air pressure (503)

wind vane instrument used to determine the direction of the wind (509)