



**World Climates**  
**Geography – Junior Cert**  
**Quick Notes**

# World Climates

Weather is the state of the atmosphere at a particular time at a particular place. Climate is the average weather conditions experienced in a region over a long period of time, normally thirty-five years. Factors that influence climate are latitude, distance from the sea, altitude, prevailing winds and aspect. A region is an area of land with its own unique characteristics e.g. climate, natural vegetation, animal species and human economic activities. The world's climatic zones can be broken down into three types- hot climates, temperate climates and cold climates. The Equatorial region is an example of a hot climate located 10 degrees north and south of the equator. It experiences high temperature and high humidity. The Mediterranean region is an example of a temperate climate that is located 30 to 40 degrees north and south of the equator. It experiences hot dry summers and mild moist winters. The Boreal Climate is cold and is located between 50 degrees north and the Arctic Circle. It experiences short warm summers and long cold winters. The Greenhouse Effect refers to the warming of the earth's atmosphere, caused by the burning of fossil fuels. This increase in global temperatures causes changes in sea level, dramatic climate changes and an increase in tropical storms and hurricanes.