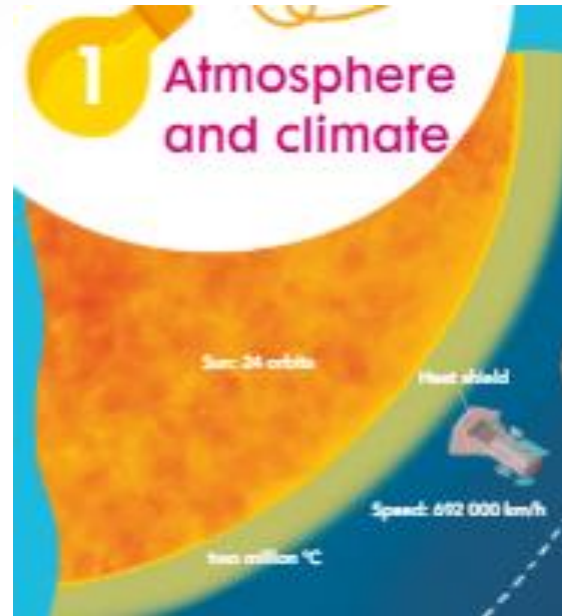


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Social Science

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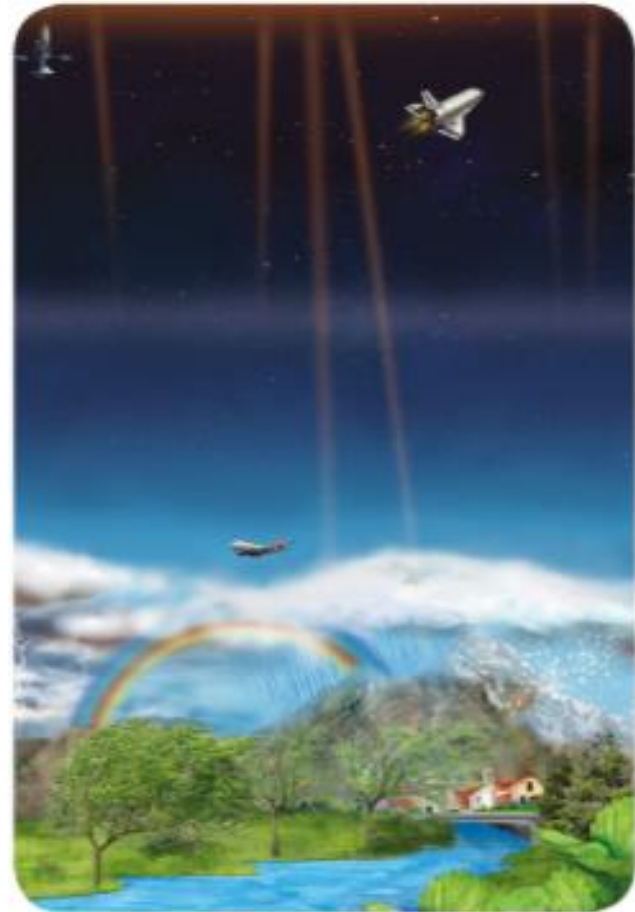
UNIT 1
Atmosphere and climate

1. Earth's atmosphere

Atmosphere: is the layer of air that surrounds and protects the Earth.




It has several functions:




- Protects the Earth from radiation
- Protects the Earth from space objects
- Contains the oxygen
- Regulates temperature
- Regulates climates and weather



The atmosphere is essential for life on Earth.

2. Instruments to study atmospheric phenomena.

Factor:	Instrument:
Temperature	thermometer 
Air pressure	barometer 
Humidity	hydrometer 

Wind	An anemometer measures wind speed. 
	A wind vane measures wind direction. 
Precipitation	rain gauge 

3. Weather and climate

Weather: is the natural changes in the atmosphere in a short period of time.

Climate: describes general weather conditions over a long period of time.

3.1) What causes precipitation?

When de cloud of water droplet becomes too heavy, precipitation falls to the ground as :

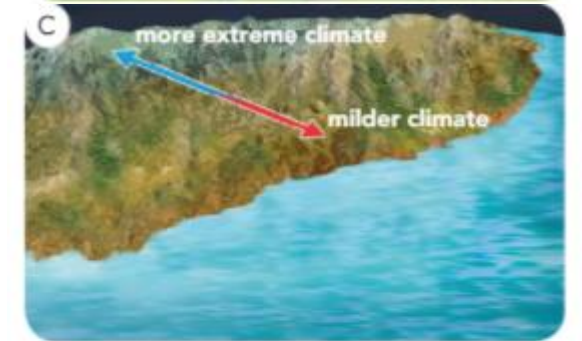
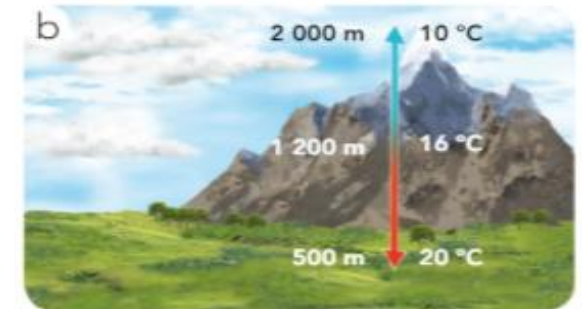
- Sleet
- Rain
- Snow
- Hail



4. Climate factor

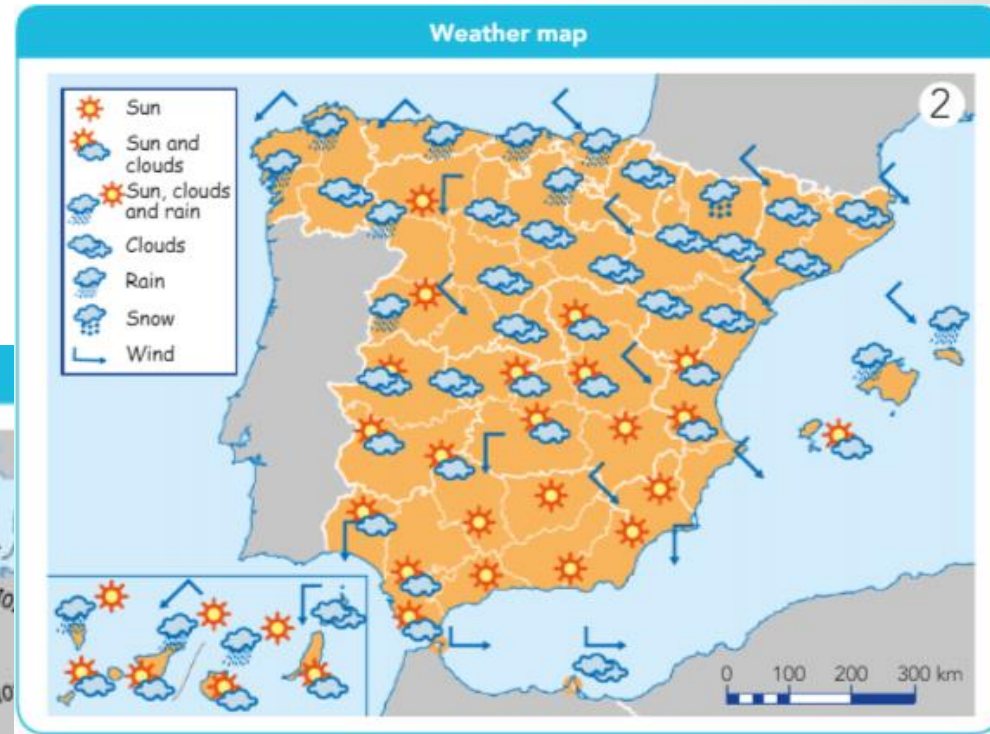
Climate depends on the following factors:

- **A) Latitude:** Near the equator warm climate and far from equator have cold climate.
- **B) Altitude:** the temperature is warmer nearer sea than in mountains.
- **C) Distant from the ocean.**
- **D) Relief and winds.**

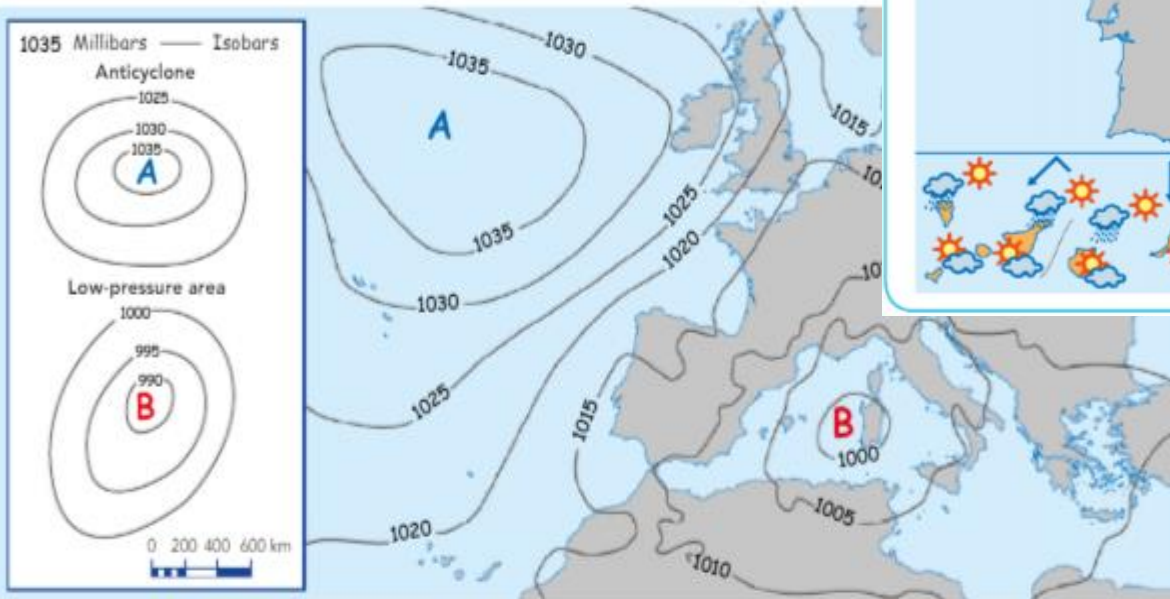


5. Weather maps

Weather maps: give us information about the weather conditions now or in the future in particular places.



Air pressure



6. Climate in Andalucía

Mediterranean climate is found near the coastal regions.

- Summers are hot.
- Winters are mild.
- There is scarce and irregular rainfall.

Continental-Mediterranean climate is found in the southern sub-plateau and most of the Guadalquivir River Valley.

- Summers are hot.
- Winters are not as cold as regions with continental climate. Sometimes there is frost.
- Rainfall is scarce.

Mountain climate is found in the high mountain ranges of Andalucía.

- Summers are warm.
- Winters are very cold.
- There is less rainfall than other mountain regions.



7. Climate change

Human activities contribute to climate change due to **greenhouse effect** causes the Earth's temperature to rise.

- Fossil fuels
- Deforestation or cutting down of forest

