**Unit I: The World in Spatial Terms**

**Weather & Climate**

The reason for seasons:

What is the importance of the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer (i.e. The Tropics)?

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| **Weather:** | **Climate:** |

**What causes weather?**

**Water Vapor**: this determines whether there will be precipitation.

* Precipitation: falling water droplets in the form of rain, sleet, snow, or hail.

**Cloud Cover**: clouds may hold water vapor.

**Landforms and Bodies of Water**: water heats slowly but also loses heat slowly. Land heats rapidly but also loses heat quickly.

**Elevation**: as elevation above sea level increases, the air becomes thinner and looses its ability to hold moisture.

**Air Movement**: winds move the air and the solar energy and moisture it holds. As a result, weather can change rapidly.

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| **Types of Precipitation** |
| **Convectional:**convectional | **Orographic:****orographic** | **Frontal:****Frontal** |

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| **Weather Extremes** | Hurricane: |
| Tornado: | Blizzard: |
| Drought: | Flood: |
| **Factors Affecting Climate** |
| **L**atitude: |
| **A**ir Masses: |
| **C**ontinentality: |
| **E**levation: |
| **M**ountain Barriers: |
| **O**cean Currents: |
| **P**ressure Cells: |
| **S**torm Tracks: |

