

CLIMATE AND WEATHER AROUND ARIZONA

Rainy, sunny, hot, cold...these can describe the weather in a location at a specific time. Weather can change quickly, from day to day or even from minute to minute. So, what is climate? Climate refers to the weather patterns over *long periods of time*—decades, centuries, or millennia. *Climate is what you expect; weather is what you get.*

Five city names are missing from this map of Arizona. Read the bullet points on the right carefully and use the clues in the box below to figure out which city is which. Write the city names on the lines given.

Then, using the internet or a newspaper, look up what today's weather is in each city, including the high and low temperatures and a pictograph representing the weather conditions.



1. _____
- At the foot of a mountain range with pine trees and natural lakes, just above a valley
 - Warm days, afternoon monsoons, cool evenings in the summer
 - Cool winters with some snow

Today's weather: High _____°F / Low _____°F

2. _____
- Sunniest and driest of all the populated cities in the contiguous United States
 - Extremely hot, dry summers
 - Warm winters

Today's weather: High _____°F / Low _____°F

3. _____
- Surrounded by several mountain ranges with Saguaro National Park to the west and to the east
 - Hot, sunny summers with evening monsoons
 - Mild winters with some rain, but snow is common atop nearby mountains

Today's weather: High _____°F / Low _____°F

4. _____
- On the (mostly dry) Salt River, surrounded by several low mountain ranges
 - Hot, sunny summers with evening monsoons
 - Mild winters with some rain

Today's weather: High _____°F / Low _____°F

5. _____
- At the base of Arizona's highest mountains, in the largest ponderosa pine forest in the United States
 - Mild, pleasant summers
 - Cold winters with over 100 inches of snow on average

Today's weather: High _____°F / Low _____°F

CLUES

Many people go north to **Flagstaff** in the summer to cool off, and in the winter, it's a popular destination for skiers and snowboarders.

The summer in **Phoenix** is hot, but east of the city you can go tubing on a nearby river. The mild winter attracts a lot of tourists and part-time residents from colder places.

Prescott is a popular place to spend the summer, especially for people who like fishing and enjoying an evening concert in the courthouse square.

Tucson's climate is similar to that of Phoenix, but neighboring Mount Lemmon is the southernmost place to ski in the continental United States!

Yuma is hot year-round, but the Colorado and Gila Rivers provide it with water for farming. The temperature very rarely drops below freezing in Yuma; freezing temperatures can be devastating for crops.

CLIMATE: POSTCARDS FROM ARIZONA



Write down some of the places and activities you see depicted on this postcard from 1939.

What's your favorite activity to do in the summer? In the winter?

Using what you know about popular recreation activities and what you've learned about the 5 C's, how do you think climate is important to Arizona's economy?

Now it's your turn! Create your own "large letter" postcard to show off your favorite place in Arizona.

Greetings from