Climate

* Average state of the atmosphere, 30 yrs
* Temperature and precipitation= the biggest descriptors

Factors that impact climate

* Latitude
* Land/water influences
* Geographic position in relation to prevailing winds
* Mountains and highlands
* Ocean currents
* Pressure and wind systems

Classifying climates

* Köppen classification
* Mean monthly and annual values of temperature and precipitation, plus natural vegetation
* A- humid tropical
  + High temps and year round rainfall, very diverse vegetation
* B-dry
  + Dry, evaporation and precipitation rates, rather than temperature
* C-humid middle-latitude, mild winters
  + Proximity to water or strong winds to regulate winters
* D-humid middle latitude, severe winters
  + Lack of water, in the middle of a continent
* E-polar
  + ET, EF
  + Very cold, warmest months about 10\*C
* Highland Climate
  + Varies by altitude