

North American Air Masses

Part A: Using your notes, draw in the four types of air masses near their source regions. Make a circle or blob to represent the air mass. Color the air masses and make a key or legend below to show what each color means.



Part B: Read the following questions carefully and select the correct answer. Use your notes.

1. What type of wind moves US air masses?
 - A. Trade winds
 - B. Easterlies
 - C. Westerlies
 - D. Doldrums
2. A cP (Continental Polar) air mass
 - A. Would most likely be cold and humid
 - B. Would be likely to form over the Rocky Mountains
 - C. Would most likely be cold and dry
 - D. Would not be able to move as far south as the U.S
3. An air mass forming in the Gulf of Mexico
 - A. Would be classified as a cT air mass
 - B. Would most likely be warm and dry
 - C. Would be a Maritime Tropical air mass
 - D. Would bring hot, dry weather to the southern part of the US
4. A Continental Tropical (cT) air mass in North America
 - A. Would be hot and very humid
 - B. Would most likely form over the deserts in northern Mexico and the southwestern US
 - C. Would be cold and dry
 - D. Could not develop, because there is no suitable source region

5. What are the areas called where air masses develop?
 - A. Development Regions
 - B. Source Regions
 - C. Beginning Regions
 - D. Starting Regions

6. A cool, humid air mass originating over the North Atlantic or North Pacific oceans is called
 - A. Maritime tropical
 - B. Maritime polar
 - C. Continental tropical
 - D. Continental polar

7. What body of water would a cold-wet air mass most likely formed over?

8. An air mass that forms over a desert is most likely a _____ air mass.

9. What body of water would a warm-wet air mass most likely formed over?

10. **A maritime polar air mass moves down into central US (middle of the continent), how does the air mass change?**

Part C: Use your notes and fill in the blanks in the table below.

Type of Air Mass	Where It Forms	Temperature	Humidity
	Over the ocean	Warm	Humid
Maritime Polar		Cold	
Continental Tropical	Over the land		
Continental Polar			Dry

Part D: Fill in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. A huge body of air that has similar temperature, humidity, and air pressure throughout is called a(n) _____.
2. _____ air masses form in the tropics where it is really warm.
3. Air masses that form over oceans are called _____ air masses.
4. _____ air masses form north of 50° north latitude and south of 50° south latitude.
5. _____ air masses form over land in the middle of continents.