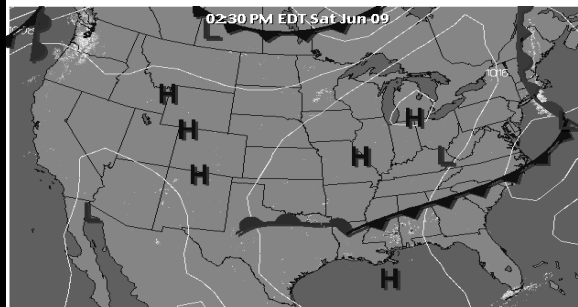
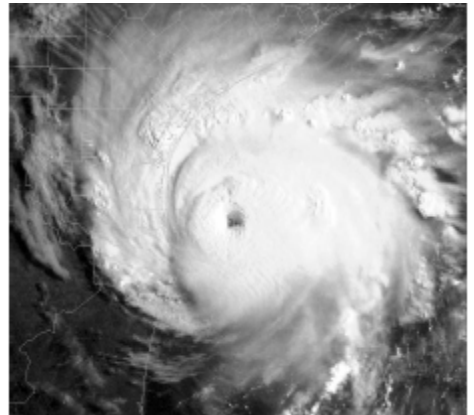


Earth Science Glossary 2007 - 2008



Light Moderate Heavy Extreme



abrasion	Rubbing together.
abundant	In great quantities.
absolute zero	Temperature at which all motion stops.
air mass	A large body of air with similar characteristics throughout.
air pressure	The weight of the overlying air.
altitude	The angular distance of a celestial object above the horizon.
anemometer	Instrument used to measure wind speed.
anomalies	Something out of the ordinary. Unlikely to be repeated.
asteroid	A solid rocky or metallic object that orbits the sun.
asthenosphere	A layer of Earth that acts like a thick plastic.
atmosphere	The shell of gases that surround the Earth.
barometer	Instrument used to measure air pressure.
capillarity	The ability of water to rise in small openings.
celestial object	Anything outside Earth's atmosphere.
classification	The grouping of items based on similarities.
climate	The long term weather patterns.
comet	Compared to a dirty snowball. Has a tail when gets too close to the sun.
condensation	Changing from a gas to a liquid.
conduction	The transfer of energy through the collision of molecules in solids.
constellation	A group of stars that form a pattern in the sky.
contour interval	How much each line is worth on a topographic map.
contour line	Connect points of equal elevation.
convection	The transfer of energy due to differences in density in liquids and gases.
convergent	Coming together.
coriolis effect	A deflection of materials caused by Earth's rotation.
correlation	Matching up rock outcrops based on similar characteristics.
cyclic	Events occurring in a predictable pattern.
cyclone	A low pressure center.
deforestation	The cutting down of trees.
density	How tightly packed the atoms are in an object.
depleted	To be used up.
deposition	To drop off due to a decrease in velocity.
dew point	The temperature at which condensation occurs.
discharge	How much water is flowing in a stream/river.
divergent	Moving apart.
doppler effect	An apparent change in wavelength caused by a change in distance between two objects.
duration	A length of time.
dynamic equilibrium	A balance between opposing forces.
eccentricity	Out of roundness.
eclipse	Occurs when celestial objects move into another's shadow.
elevation	The height above sea level.
ellipse	A closed curve around two points.

epicenter	The place on the Earth's surface directly above the focus.
erosion	To pick up due to an increase in velocity.
evapotranspiration	All water that enters the atmosphere.
focus	A fixed point OR the actual spot in the Earth's crust where an earthquake originates.
force	The ability to do work or cause physical change.
foucault pendulum	A device which provides evidence that the Earth rotates.
front	An interface (boundary) between two air masses.
galaxy	A large grouping of stars.
geocentric model	Earth-centered.
gradient	Steepness. Slope.
greenhouse effect	The trapping of infrared energy in the Earth's atmosphere.
hachured lines	Show areas of decreasing elevation (depressions).
heliocentric model	Sun-centered.
hydrology	The study of water.
hydrosphere	The layer of water on the Earth's surface.
illuminated	To be lit up.
impermeable	Does not allow water to flow through.
index fossils	Best way to correlate rock layers.
inference	An educated guess. An hypothesis.
infiltration	To seep through due to gravity.
intensity	The strength of something.
interface	A boundary across which energy is exchanged.
insolation	Incoming Solar Radiation (energy from the Sun)
isobar	Lines connecting points of equal pressure.
isotherm	Lines connecting points of equal temperature.
isotopes	A different form of an element differing only in mass.
kinetic energy	Energy in motion.
latitude	The angular distance north or south of the Equator.
lithosphere	The solid ground that we walk on.
local time	Equal for all locations on the same meridian (line of longitude).
longitude	The angular distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.
luminosity	The brightness of an object.
mass	The amount of matter (atoms) in an object.
meander	A bend in a river or stream.
meteor	Also called a shooting star.
meteorology	The study of weather.
model	A representation of a system.
observation	Using the five senses to interact with the environment.
orographic effect	The affect mountains have on precipitation patterns.
outcrop	Bedrock that can be seen on the Earth's surface.
outgassing	The escaping of water vapor from the Earth's crust.
ozone	A gas found in the Earth's atmosphere (O ₃).
percent deviation	The amount of error in a measurement.

permeable	Allows water to flow through.
perpendicular	At right angles.
porosity	The amount of space between particles.
potential energy	Stored energy.
precipitation	Any form of water that falls to the earth.
principle of superposition	Oldest layers on the bottom.
principle of uniformitarianism	Those things that occurred in the past are also occurring today.
profile	A side view of a topographic map.
psychrometer	Instrument used to measure relative humidity and dew point.
p-wave	The first wave to arrive after an earthquake occurs.
radiation	The transfer of energy through electromagnetic waves.
rate of change	How much something changes over time.
ratio	A comparison of two numbers (\div)
refraction	The bending of energy.
relative humidity	The percentage of the air that is filled with water.
revolution	The amount of time to go once around the sun.
rotation	Spinning on an axis.
saturated	Filled with water.
solar noon	The time when the Sun reaches its highest point in the sky.
solar system	Made up of a star and all the objects which revolve around it.
solidification	Changing from a liquid to a solid.
specific heat	The amount of energy required to raise the temperature of 1 gram of a substance 1°C.
strata	Layers of bedrock.
s-wave	The last wave to arrive after an earthquake occurs.
tectonics	A study of the Earth's crustal movements.
temperature	A measure of the average kinetic energy.
tides	Rising and falling of the oceans caused by the moon's gravitational attraction to the Earth.
transpiration	Release of water from plants.
tsunami	A large tidal wave caused by an earthquake.
unconformity	A buried erosional surface.
universe	Everything that exists.
vaporization	Changing from a liquid to a gas.
volume	The amount of space an object takes up.
waning	When less of the moon's surface can be seen.
water table	The interface between the zone of aeration and zone of saturation.
waxing	When more of the moon's surface can be seen.
weathering	To break down.
zenith	The highest point in the sky (90° above the horizon).
zone of aeration	The portion of the soil which is filled with air.
zone of saturation	The portion of the soil which is filled with water.