Air Masses & Fronts: Day 4

What’s an air mass?

- A large body of air that has similar temperature, humidity, and pressure.

How are air masses named?

- They’re named for where they formed (land or water) and if the air is humid or dry

What two characteristics are used to classify air masses?

- Temperature

- Humidity

What are the three classifications for temperature?

- Artic: Bitter formed near the poles
- Polar: Cold air
- Tropic: Warm air

What are the two classifications for humidity?

- **Maritime** (formed over water, humid)
- **Continental** (formed over land, dry)

Abbreviations

- m, c (maritime, continental)
- A, P, T (Artic, Polar, Tropical)

- First use a lowercase blue letter, then an capital red letter.

Where do air masses get their characteristics from?

From the land which it was formed over.

What are the major types of air masses that affect North America?

- Write down the abreviations only

What is a front?

- When two air masses meet.

How can I find a front on a weather map? Look for…

- sharp temperature changes over relatively short distances,
- changes in the moisture content of the air (dew point),
- shifts in wind direction,
- low pressure troughs and pressure changes, and
- clouds and precipitation patterns.

What are the four types of fronts?

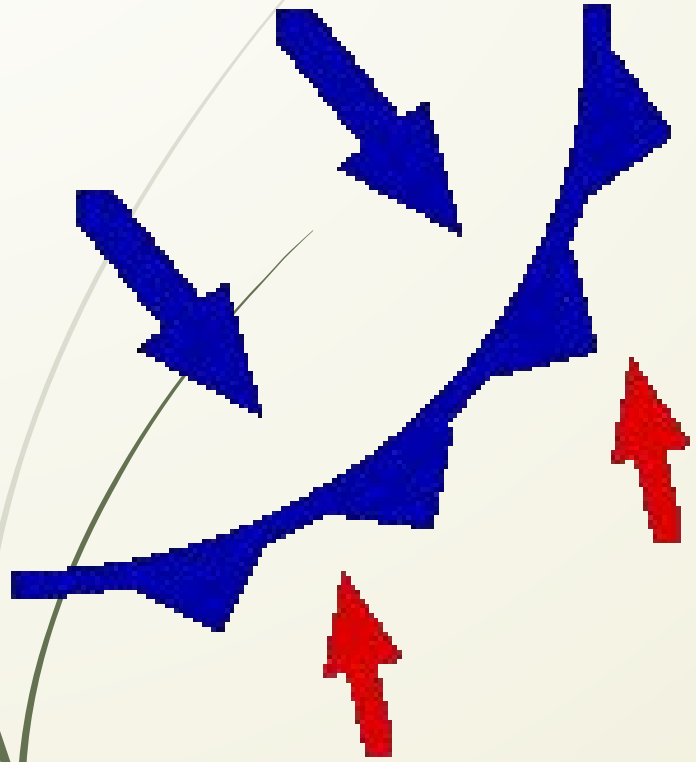
- Cold Front
- Occluded Front
- Warm Front
- Stationary Front

Cold Front

Leading edge of colder air that is replacing warmer air.

Write the symbols on the board with the flow of airmasses

Cold Front

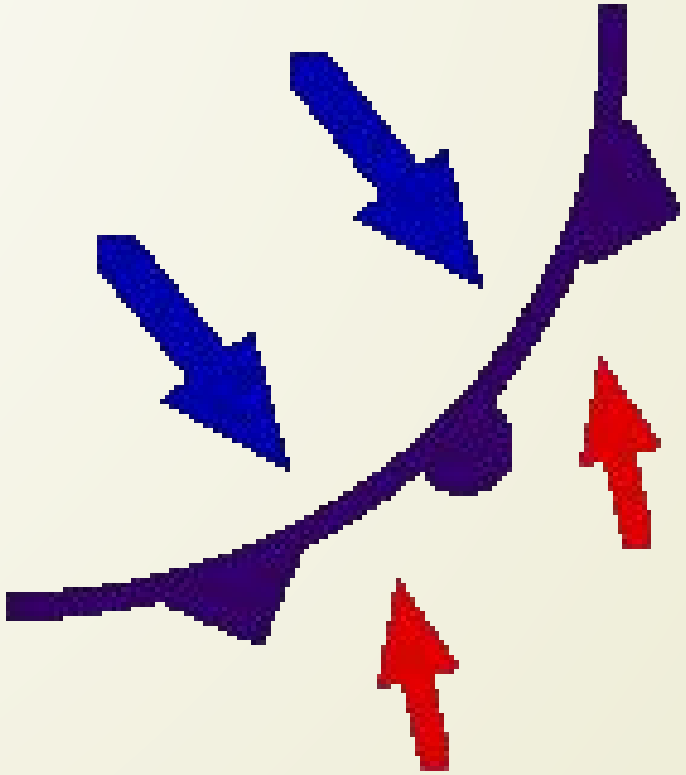


Occluded Front

A cold front catches up to a warm front.

Write the symbols on the board with the flow of airmasses

Occluded Front

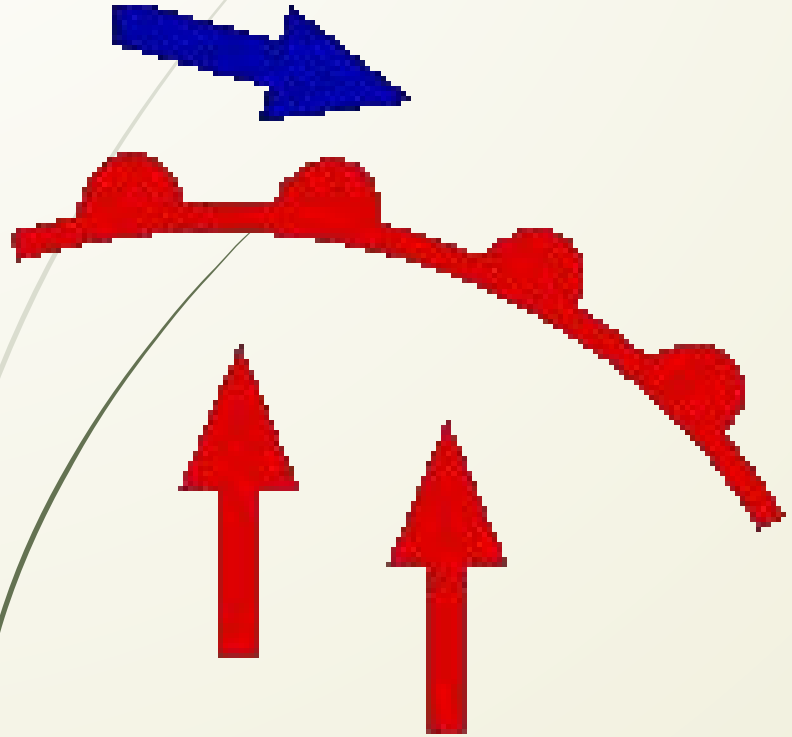


Warm Front

Leading edge of warmer air that is replacing cooler air.

Write the symbols on the board with the flow of airmasses

Warm Front



Stationary Front

A front that is not moving.

Write the symbols on the board with the flow of airmasses

Stationary Front