

Chapter 27, Vocabulary

Essential Question: How does climate influence human activity in a region?

1. monsoons: a seasonal wind. Summer monsoon winds in South Asia usually bring rain to that region.
2. climate: the pattern of weather over a long period of time
3. peninsula: a long, narrow stretch of land that is surrounded by water on three sides
4. atmospheric pressure: the weight of the atmosphere pressing down on any point of the surface of the Earth
5. atmosphere: the layer of air that surrounds Earth
6. upwind: against the direction that the wind is blowing
7. downwind: in the direction that the wind is blowing
8. orographic effect: the precipitation that occurs when moist air rises up the side of a mountain. As the air rises, it cools down and releases most of its moisture as rain or snow.
9. rainshadow: a dry area on the downwind side of a mountain
10. tropical cyclone: a severe storm with high winds that spiral around a calm center. Depending on where they form, tropical cyclones are called *hurricanes*, *typhoons*, or *cyclones*.
11. desert: a geographic region with too little rainfall to support much plant life; also a vegetation zone
12. drought: an unusually long period in which little or no rain falls
13. semiarid: dry, with little rainfall; also a climate or climate zone with hot dry summers and cool, dry winters

14. runoff: water from rainfall that is not absorbed (down) into the soil and instead flows (sideways) into streams and lakes
15. evaporation: the process by which a liquid, such as water, turns into a vapor, or gas
16. slums: an overcrowded, dirty area of a city where housing is usually in very poor condition
17. cloud seeding: the scattering of chemicals into clouds to bring about rain