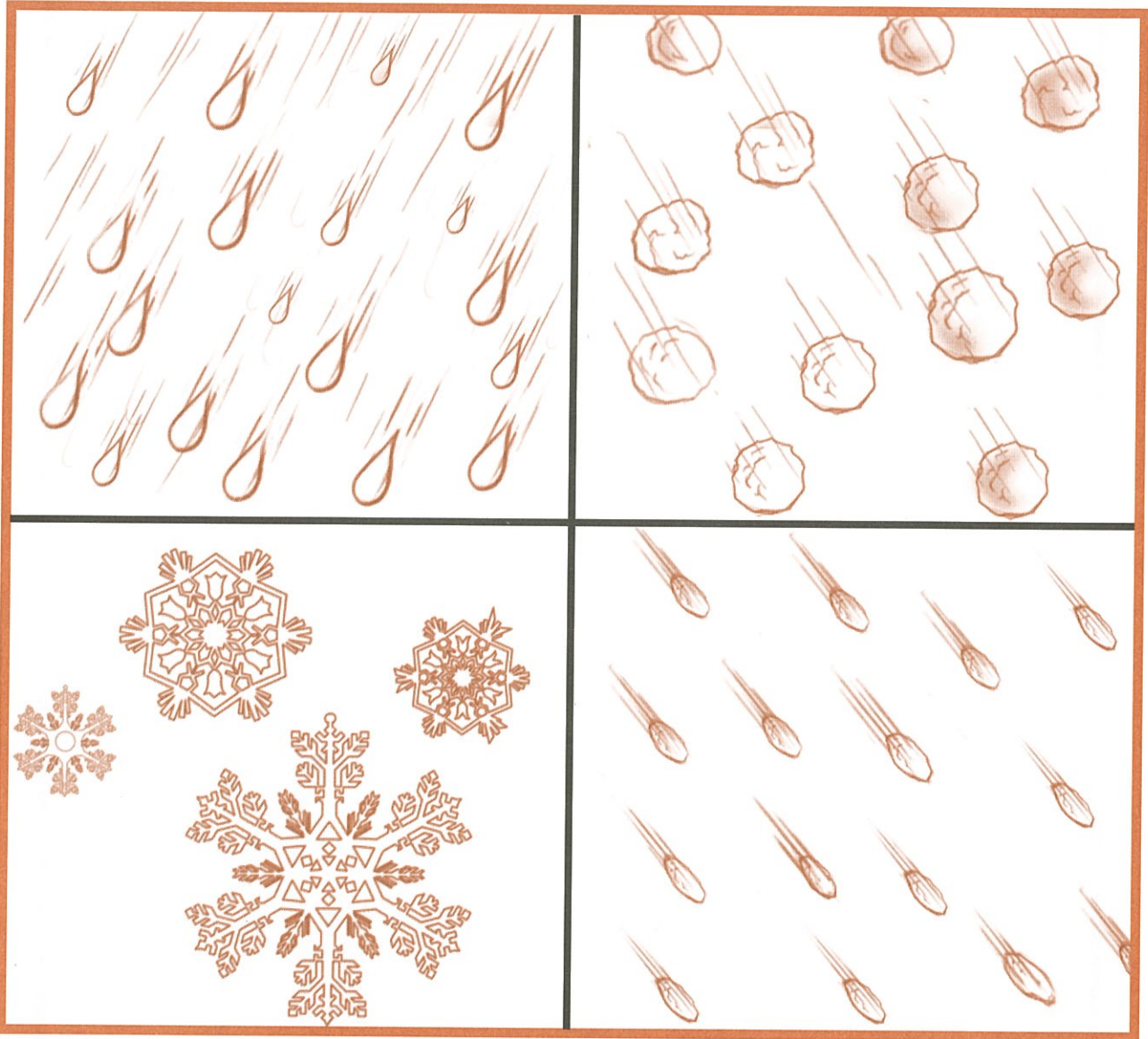


What is precipitation?



KEY TERMS

precipitation: water that falls to the earth from the atmosphere

rain gauge: instrument used to measure precipitation

THE STORY OF "DROPS"

Figures A, B, and C show how droplets grow and become drops. Complete the word story below and on the next page by filling in the blank spaces. Choose from the following terms:

over and over again
cannot
fall
light in weight

water
collide
drops

precipitation
heavier
air currents

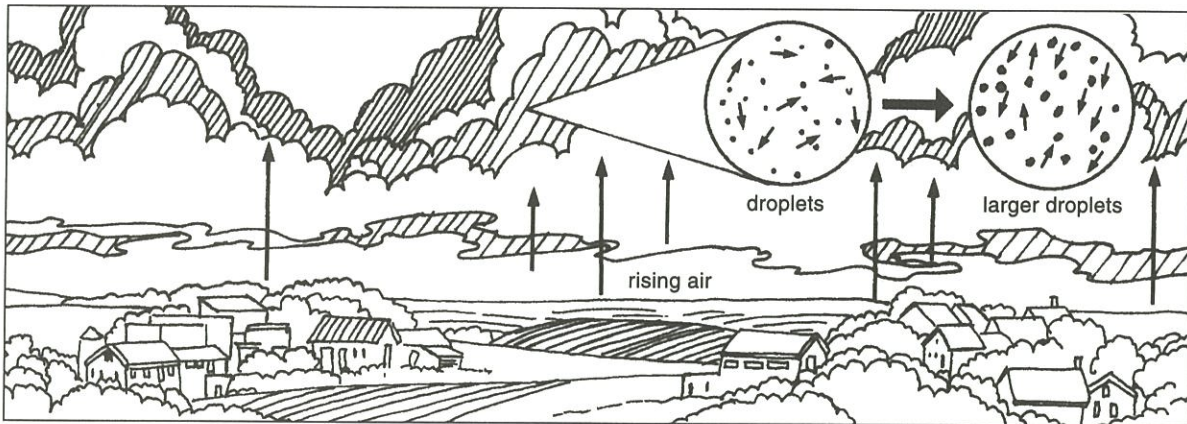


Figure A

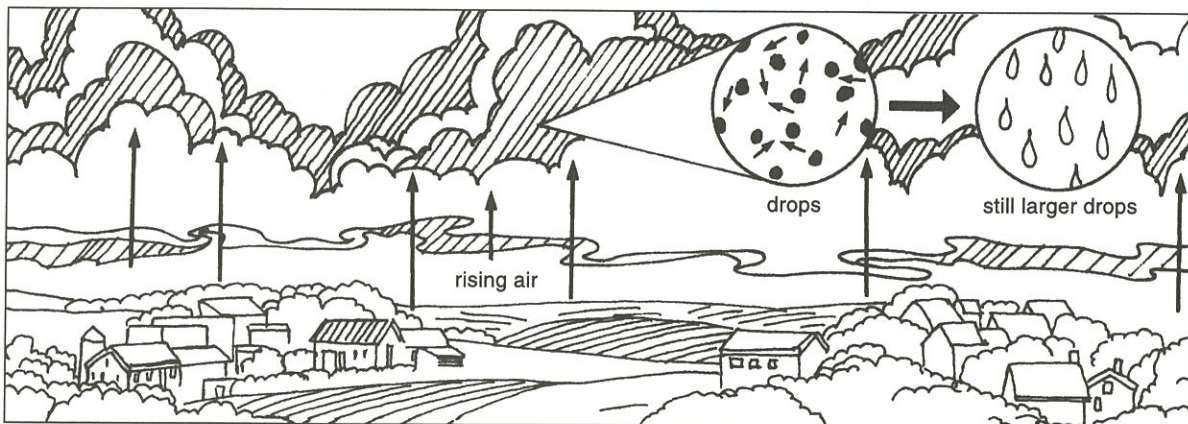


Figure B

1. A cloud is made up of billions of droplets of _____.
2. Droplets are very _____.
3. _____ keep them from falling to earth.
4. Moving droplets _____. They join and become larger droplets.
5. The droplets collide _____.
6. The droplets become larger and heavier. They become the size of _____.

HOW MUCH DOES IT RAIN?

The graph below shows about how many centimeters of rain fall on some American cities in one year. Study the graph. Then complete the chart below the graph.

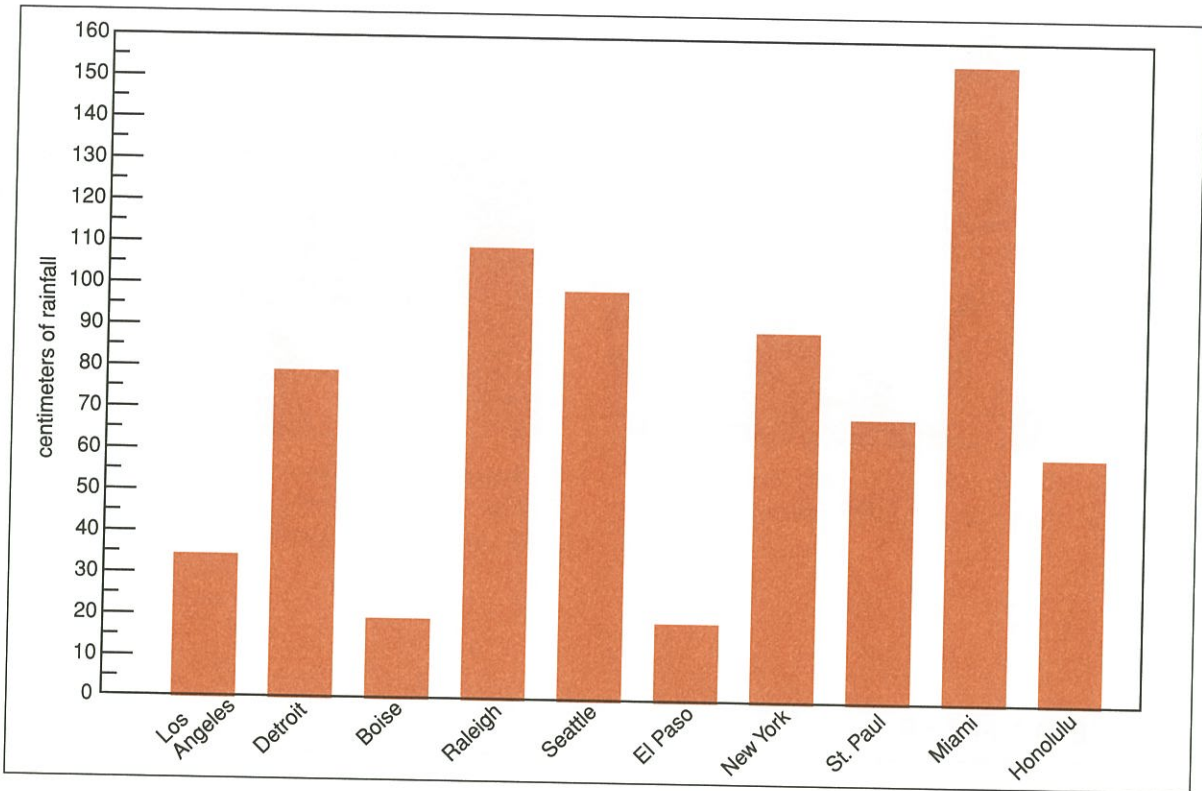


Figure F

| | City | Average Yearly Precipitation (Approximate Centimeters) |
|-----|----------------------|--|
| 1. | Boise (Idaho) | |
| 2. | Detroit (Mich.) | |
| 3. | El Paso (Texas) | |
| 4. | Honolulu (Hawaii) | |
| 5. | Los Angeles (Calif.) | |
| 6. | Miami (Florida) | |
| 7. | New York (N.Y.) | |
| 8. | Raleigh (N.C.) | |
| 9. | Seattle (Wash.) | |
| 10. | St. Paul (Minn.) | |

FILL IN THE BLANK

Complete each statement using a term or terms from the list below. Write your answers in the spaces provided. Some words may be used more than once.

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| heavier | hail | below freezing |
| drizzle | cloud | rising air |
| drop | above freezing | snow |
| fall to the ground | rain | larger |
| sleet | precipitation | |

1. A _____ is made up of billions of droplets of water.
2. Droplets are held in the air by _____.
3. When droplets collide, they become _____ in size.
4. About one million droplets make up a _____.
5. Drops are much _____ and _____ than droplets.
6. Drops _____.
7. Water in any form that falls to the earth is called _____.
8. There are five kinds of precipitation. They are _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.
9. It rains or drizzles when the temperature is _____.
10. It hails, sleet, or snows when the temperature is _____.

MATCHING

Match each term in Column A with its description in Column B. Write the correct letter in the space provided.

| Column A | Column B |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ 1. precipitation | a) like a fine spray |
| _____ 2. rain gauge | b) measures rainfall |
| _____ 3. water vapor | c) change from gas to liquid |
| _____ 4. condensation | d) any water from the sky |
| _____ 5. drizzle | e) gas |