Air mass meaning



Air mass meaning

Britannica: Encyclopedia article about air mass

An air mass is a large volume of air in the atmosphere that is mostly uniform in temperature and moisture. Air masses can extend thousands of kilometers in any direction, and can reach from ground level to the stratosphere--16 kilometers (10 miles) into the atmosphere.

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Air Masses: A large volume of air in the atmosphere that is mostly uniform in temperature and moisture is referred to as air mass. The Earth's atmosphere contains large air masses with similar temperature and moisture. These air masses affect weather and climate in different areas. Meteorologists study them to predict the weather accurately.

Air masses can move thousands of kilometers and can reach up to 16 kilometers high. The idea of air masses was developed by Bjerkens and Bjerknes during World War I and was formalized in the 1930s for short-term weather forecasts (24-36 hours). Understanding air masses helps explain weather, especially in higher and mid-latitudes. The troposphere, the layer of air around the Earth, is not uniform, it is made up of distinct air parcels called air masses.

Air masses can be defined as a large body of air, usually, 1600kms or more, characterized by homogenous

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physical properties like temperature, and moisture content at a given height.

Air masses come from specific regions where they gain temperature and moisture. These regions can be over land or water and are affected by factors like latitude and wind. There are two main types of air masses:

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