

Quick Vocabulary

Lesson 1

climate long-term average weather conditions that occur in a particular region

microclimate localized climate that is different than the climate of the larger area surrounding it

precipitation water, in liquid or solid form, that falls from the atmosphere

rain shadow area of low rainfall on the downwind slope of a mountain

specific heat amount of thermal energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 kg of a material by 1°C

Lesson 2

drought period with below-average precipitation

El Niño/Southern Oscillation combined ocean and atmospheric cycle that results in weakened trade winds across the Pacific Ocean

ice age cold period, lasting hundreds to millions of years, during which glaciers cover much of Earth

interglacial warm period that occurs during an ice age

monsoon wind circulation pattern that changes direction with the seasons

phenomenon observable fact or event

revolution action by a celestial body of going around in an orbit or in an elliptical course