

Finding Fronts

Name _____

Characteristics of a Warm Front

- Occur when warm air replaces cold air at the surface
- Usually move slowly
- Although they can bring thunderstorms, the weather with a warm front is usually less violent than a cold front.
- Many times warm fronts bring gentle rain that may last for a few days
- Behind the warm front skies gradually clear

Characteristics of a Cold Front

- Occur when cold air is replacing warm air at the surface
- Move faster than other fronts
- Most likely to bring violent weather
- Bring cooler weather, clearing skies, and a change in wind direction.

How to Locate a Front

- Look for sharp temperature changes over a short distance
- Look for shifts in wind direction
- Look for changes in precipitation and cloud cover.
- Warm fronts are found to the northeast of a cold front and east of the center of low pressure.
- High pressure is located to the northwest of a cold front

Directions

1. Examine the wind symbols and temperatures on the map.
2. Using wind direction, locate the high and low pressure systems.
3. **LABEL** the boxes containing a star (*) with H for high and L for low.
4. A warm front is the leading edge of a warm air mass.
 - Find an area of the map where temperatures increase over a short distance.
 - Look for a shift in wind direction
 - **DRAW** in the warm front symbol and label it with W
5. A cold front is the leading edge of a cold air mass
 - Find an area of the map where temperatures decrease over a short distance.
 - Look for a shift in wind direction.
 - **DRAW** in the cold front symbol and label it with C

Questions

1. What are 3 things to look for to help locate a front

• _____ • _____ • _____

2. The wind ahead (to the right/east) of a warm front is from the _____

3. The wind behind (to the left/west) of a warm front is from the _____

4. The wind behind (to the left/west) a cold front is from the _____

5. A _____ is the leading edge of a warm air mass.

6. A _____ is the leading edge of a cold air mass.

7. Which type of front is more likely to bring severe storms? cold front / warm front

8. Several days of light rain would be associated with a cold front / warm front

9. Which front always moves through an area first? cold front / warm front