

Factors of Climate

- **Latitude** – Three latitude zones (low, middle, and high); Hotter nearer the Equator; Colder nearer the poles
- **Elevation** – For every 1,000 feet gained in elevation, the temperature drops about 3.5⁰F
- **Landforms/Nearness to Water** – Water is slower to heat and cool than land; Interior land temperatures can change dramatically; Mountains have a windward side (wet side) and a leeward side (dry side) – the dry area is called a rain shadow
- **Wind Currents** – Prevailing winds are constant; Trade winds are in the low latitudes; Westerlies are in the middle latitude; Easterlies are in the high latitudes; Doldrums (no wind) are near the Equator
- **Ocean Currents** – Cold and warm