

SECTION 1 GEOGRAPHY

GeoActivity

Use with North America Geography & History, Section 1.1, in your textbook.

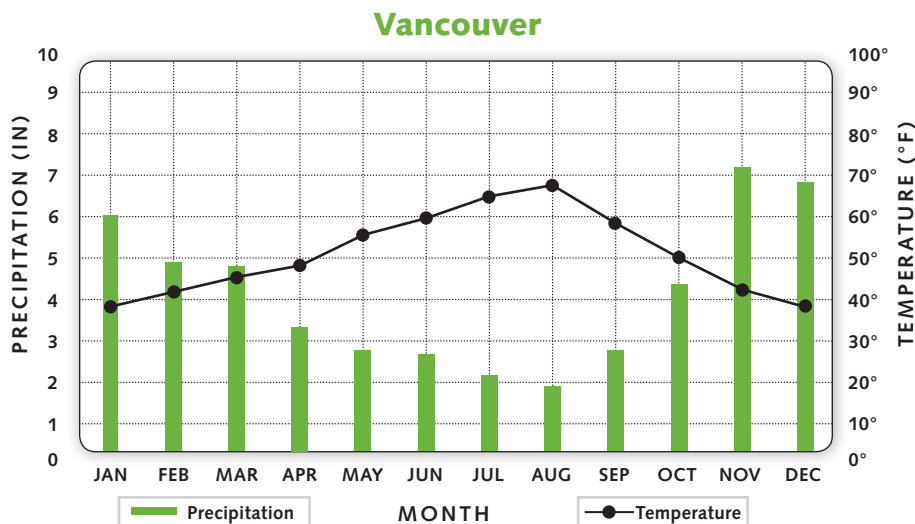
Go to Interactive Whiteboard GeoActivities at myNGconnect.com to complete this activity online.

1.1 PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

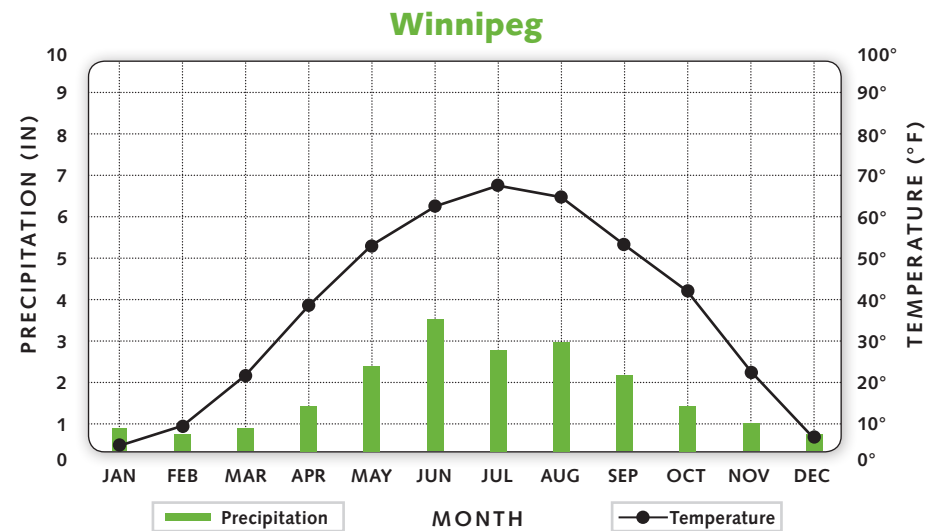
Compare Climates

What determines your local climate? Geography is a major factor. Latitude—imaginary lines that run east to west parallel to the equator—affects the average temperature. Mountains and other landforms affect precipitation (rain and snow), as do prevailing winds and how close a location is to a large body of water. All those factors vary greatly in North America, and this means local climates vary greatly, too.

Contrasting Climates The two climographs show the average annual temperatures and precipitation for two Canadian cities: Vancouver, British Columbia, and Winnipeg, Manitoba. These cities both have a latitude of about 50° north. One is on the Pacific coast; the other is closer to the center of the continent. Locate both cities on the map in your textbook. Think about their locations as you study the climographs.



Source: National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska



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- 1. Interpret Graphs** Look at the temperature line for Vancouver. How do you think the nearby ocean influences the climate of this coastal city?

- 2. Compare and Contrast** What is the rainiest month in Winnipeg? in Vancouver? Write the average rainfall for each month.

- 3. Make Generalizations** Winnipeg has what is known as a “continental climate.” Vancouver has what is known as a “maritime climate.” Based on the two climographs, how would you describe the year-round weather patterns for cities in each type of climate?
