Weather Terms

1. barometer: instrument for measuring air pressure…rising or falling air pressure
2. hygrometer: instrument for measuring relative humidity
3. anemometer: instrument for measuring wind speed
4. thermometer: instrument for measuring air temperature
5. humidity: how much water vapor is in the air
6. tornado: a violently rotating column of air that is in contact with both the surface of the earth and a cumulonimbus cloud or, in rare cases, the base of a cumulus cloud
7. hurricane: A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone or severe tropical storm that forms in the northern hemisphere with winds in excess of 74 mph with a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth’s surface.
8. atmosphere: gases that surround the earth
9. air pressure: pressure, at the surface of the earth, caused by the weight of the air in the atmosphere
10. front: front edge of an air mass, where it meets air of a different temperature
11. rain gauge: instrument used to gather and measure the amount of liquid precipitation over a set period of time
12. wind vane: instrument that points in the direction the wind is coming.
13. meteorologist: person who collects weather data and studies weather
14. air mass: body of air in which all the air is approximately the same temperature and humidity
15. precipitation: moisture that falls from clouds in a variety of forms, including rain, snow, hail, and sleet
16. stratus: layered clouds
17. cumulus: kind of cloud consisting of rounded heaps with a darker horizontal base
18. cirrus: highest form of clouds made of ice crystals in thin, featherlike shapes
19. fog: a collection of liquid water droplets or ice crystals suspended in the air at or near the Earth’s surface
20. cumulonimbus: cumulus cloud of great height often producing rain showers or is a sign of approaching thunderstorms