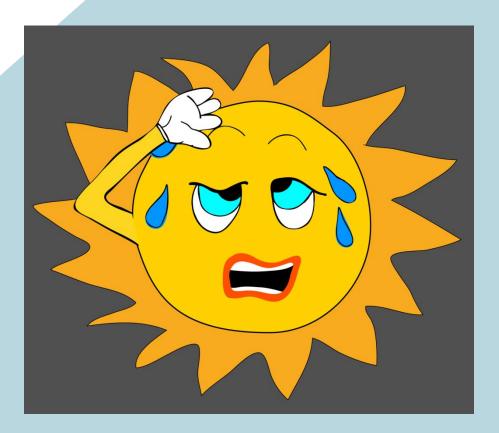


HUMIDITY



## **HUMIDITY**

Humidity is a measure of how much water vapor that is in the air

<u>Water vapor</u> is water in the gas phase and it has evaporated into the air; it is invisible



### **HUMIDITY**

Warmer air is able to hold more water vapor since there is more free space to hold water

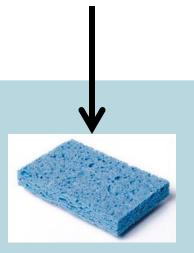
Think about air like a sponge, the larger the sponge, the more water it can hold

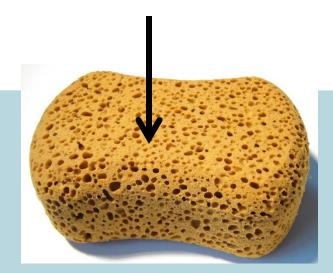
#### **Cold Air**

Little Room for Water Vapor

#### Warm Air

Lots of Room for Water Vapor





# HUMIDITY EFFECTS



High humidity is uncomfortable for humans because it makes it difficult for sweat to evaporate and cool our bodies.

High humidity can short out electronics

High humidity can lead to the growth of mold and mildew in buildings

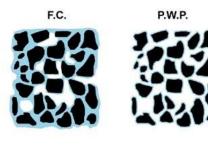
Low humidity can make breathing difficult and cause dry skin

Low humidity can make objects brittle

Low humidity can cause build up of static electricity causing electronics to shut down

# SATURATION POINT





When the air is holding as much water vapor as possible at a certain temperature it has reached its saturation point

Think about a sponge, at some point it can no longer hold any more water

<u>Dew point</u> is the temperature when saturated air has cooled and will start to condense onto another surface



### **DEW AND FOG**



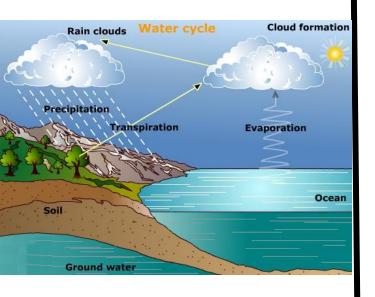
Early in the morning, the air temperature usually cools, which allows water to condense

When this cooling and condensing causes water to form on grass and other surfaces, we call it <a href="decoration">dew</a>

If there is enough water vapor that condenses you can get clouds close to the ground which are called <u>fog</u>



#### **CLOUDS**



Similar to dew forming on grass, water vapor must have something to condense on to form clouds in the upper layers of the troposphere

As water vapor rises into cooler air, it condenses on dust and other particles

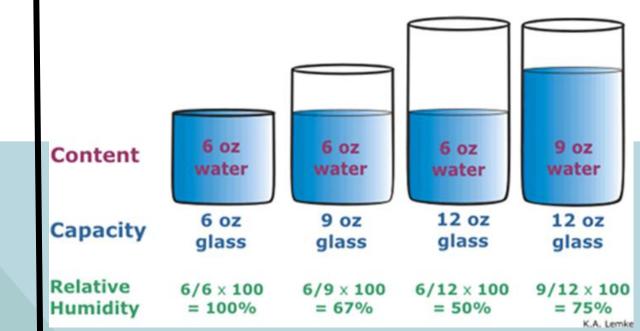
The water drops and ice crystals are so light, they stay aloft and collect more water, forming clouds

The droplets/crystals continue to stay aloft until they become too heavy and fall as precipitation

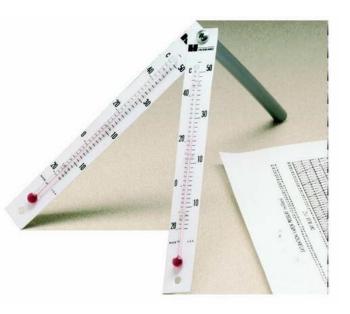
# RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Relative humidity is a measure of how much water vapor is in the air compared to the maximum amount of water vapor air can hold at that temperature

Relative humidity is written as a percentage (%)



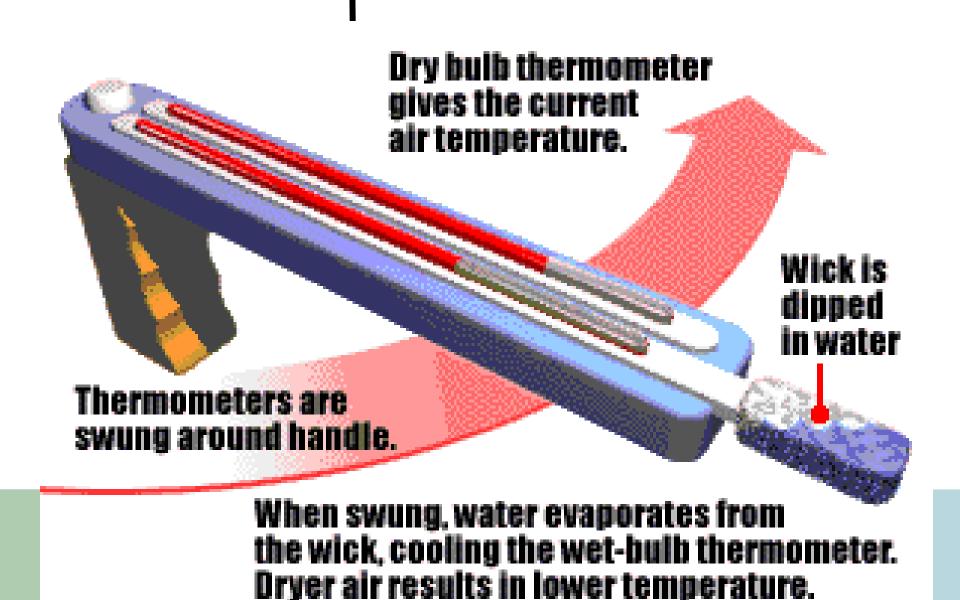
# RELATIVE HUMIDITY



Relative humidity is measured with a sling psychrometer

Sling psychrometers have a wet-bulb thermometer and a dry-bulb thermometer

The bigger the difference between the two readings on the thermometers, the lower the relative humidity in the air



### **SUMMARY**

- 1. Give 2 examples of countries or regions on Earth that have high humidity.
- 2. Give 2 examples of countries or regions on Earth that have low humidity.
- 3. Why is high humidity so uncomfortable for humans?
- 4. What role does humidity play in the water cycle?

