

References and Further Reading

Chapter 15: Weather Systems

For the disaster junkie, NOAA's National Climate Data Center maintains the list of billion dollar US weather disasters discussed at the beginning of the chapter (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/reports/billionz.html>). The site also includes a listing of global temperature and precipitation extremes.

We have already mentioned two sites that have numerous pages that examine topics discussed in this chapter, such as air masses, fronts, midlatitude cyclones, thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes. The University of Illinois' Department of Atmospheric Sciences Weather World 2010 site is a featured site for this chapter as it has separate online guides ([http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/\(Gh\)/guides/home.rxml](http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/guides/home.rxml)) while the USA Today also has several useful online resources (<http://www.usatoday.com/weather/resources/basics/wworks0.htm>). The National Weather Services's Jetstream online weather school has a pair of pages that link air masses, frontal systems, and midlatitude cyclones (see <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/synoptic/airmass.htm>).

You can examine image of severe storms at the National Severe Storms Laboratory collection (<http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/nssl/>). For more on tornadoes, check out the Tornado Project (<http://tornadoproject.com/>), NOAA's Severe weather site (<http://www.noaa.gov/themes/severe.php>), or the National Severe Storms

Laboratory's severe weather primers on tornadoes and thunderstorms

(<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/primer/>).

Hurricanes originate through much different mechanisms than tornadoes. The origins and features of a hurricane are detailed in the NASA Earth Observatory report on

Hurricanes: The Greatest Storms on Earth at

http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Library/Hurricanes/hurricanes_1.html. The National

Weather Service's National Hurricane Center tracks hurricanes in the Atlantic and Pacific

Ocean basins. You can explore their site (<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>) to track current

storms, review past hurricane seasons, and examine lists of the deadliest, costliest, and

most intense hurricanes. Detailed information about Hurricane Katrina is available from

NOAA at (<http://www.katrina.noaa.gov/>). Finally, the USGS Coastal and Marine

Geology program study the impact of hurricanes on the coast. You can find numerous

before and after images of hurricane effects at <http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/hurricanes/>.