Air Mass Classifications

- based on the source regions from which their original characteristics are derived; the latitudinal position of the source region indicates the temperature of the air mass & the nature of the underlying surface influences the humidity content

Type	Source Regions	Source Region Properties
Arctic & Antarctic (A)	Antarctica, Arctic Ocean & fringes, Greenland	very cold, very dry, very stable
Continental polar (cP)	High-latitude plains of Eurasia & N. America	cold, dry, very stable
Maritime polar (mP)	Oceans in the vicinity of 50° & 60° latitude	cool,moist, relatively stable/unstable
Continental tropical (cT)	Low-latitude deserts (esp. Sahara & Australian)	hot, very dry, unstable
Maritime tropical (mT)	Tropical & subtropical oceans	warm, moist, variable stability
Equatorial (E)	Oceans near the equator	warm, very moist, unstable