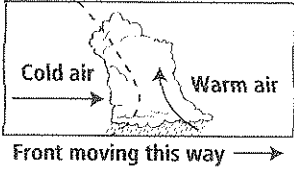
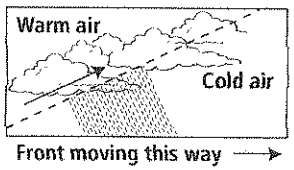
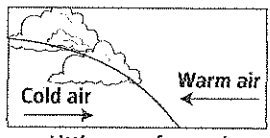
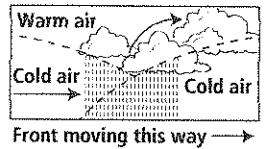


Types of Weather Fronts



When large masses of warm air and cold air meet, they do not mix. Instead, they form a front, usually hundreds of miles long. When a front passes, the weather changes. The chart describes the four main types of fronts and the weather changes each type brings.

| Type of Front | How It Forms | Weather It Brings |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Cold front</p>  | Forms when a cold air mass pushes under a warm air mass, forcing the warm air to rise. | Thunderheads can form as the moisture in the warm air mass rises, cools, and condenses. As the front moves through, cool, fair weather is likely to follow. |
| <p>Warm front</p>  | Forms when a moist, warm air mass slides up and over a cold air mass. | As the warm air mass rises, it condenses into a broad area of clouds. A warm front brings gentle rain or light snow, followed by warmer, milder weather. |
| <p>Stationary front</p>  <p>Little or no forward movement of the front</p> | Forms when warm and cold air meet and neither air mass has the force to move the other. They remain <i>stationary</i> , or "standing still." | Where the warm and cold air meet, clouds and fog form, and it may rain or snow. Can bring many days of clouds and precipitation. |
| <p>Occluded Front</p>  | Forms when a warm air mass gets caught between two cold air masses. The warm air mass rises as the cool air masses push and meet in the middle. | The temperature drops as the warm air mass is <i>occluded</i> , or "cut off," from the ground and pushed upward. Can bring strong winds and heavy precipitation. |