

## Precipitation



# What is precipitation?

**Precipitation** is any water that falls to the Earth's surface from the atmosphere.

Precipitation occurs when the air becomes saturated with water vapor. The vapor condenses and falls from the sky.



The state in which it reaches the Earth's surface depends on a number of different factors such as **altitude** and temperature.

**What different types of precipitation can you think of?**



# Why does it rain?

There are three types of rain: **relief rainfall**, **convective rainfall** and **frontal rainfall**.

- In all three situations, rainfall occurs because air rises.
- Air contains water vapor. As the air rises it cools and condensation can occur.
- This means that the water vapor turns into droplets of water and falls as rain.



**What are the differences between the three main types of rainfall?**



# Convictional rain



# Ordering convection



# Relief rain



# What a relief!



# Frontal rain





# Frontal, relief or convection?

