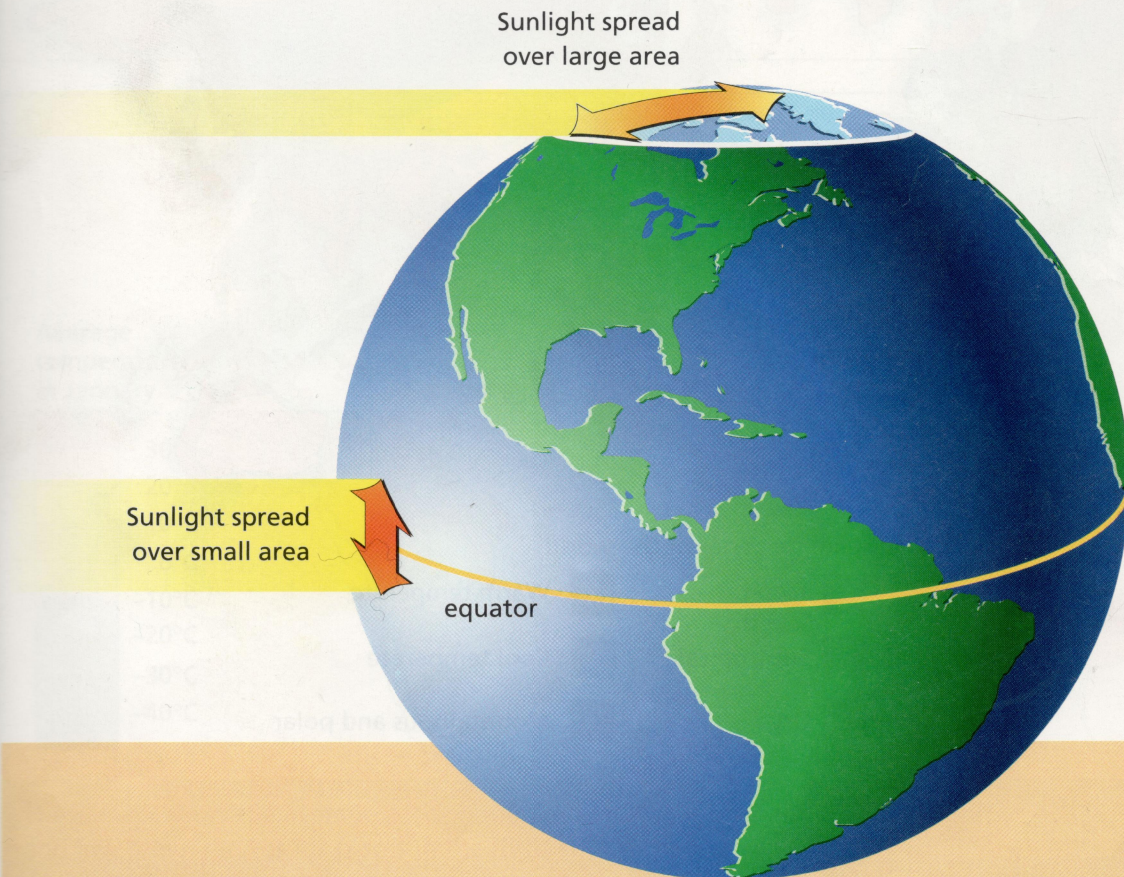


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What Is Climate?

Get Started

Living in Canada, you have experienced different types of weather. You usually know what type of weather to expect in each of the four seasons. Although the weather may change a lot in a day or in a season, there are patterns to it. The pattern of weather over many years is pretty much the same. It is the pattern that helps us make predictions. The pattern of weather for an area is called its **climate**. As you read more about climate think about where you live. What type of climate is it? How does it affect you? How would your life be different if you lived somewhere else?



The surface of Earth is curved. The sun's rays hit it at different angles. The more direct the sun's rays are, the hotter the place. At the **equator** (which is an imaginary line around the centre of Earth) the sun's rays are direct and concentrated on a small area. Places near the equator are among the hottest on Earth. As you travel away from the equator the

temperature becomes cooler because the sun's rays are less direct and spread over a much larger area. At the North and South Poles, the sun's rays are spread over a very large area and the ground does not warm up quickly. The polar climate is the coldest on Earth's surface.