

If a body of water is big enough, it can affect the climate of the surrounding area by cooling the air in the summer and warming the air in the winter. A large body of water also provides more water vapour for the water cycle of an area. More water vapour going into the air means more precipitation falling to the ground.

Look at the map of Canada below. It looks like Vancouver, British Columbia and Kapuskasing, Ontario are nearly the same distance away from the North Pole. You might expect them to have the same climate. However, the annual average temperature at Vancouver is 9.8°C , while the average annual temperature at Kapuskasing is 0.8°C . Also, Vancouver receives an average of about 1060 mm of precipitation each year, but Kapuskasing only receives an average of

about 870 mm of precipitation. Why do you think the climates of these two cities are so different?

Climate has a great effect on people, plants, and animals. Plants need water to grow and people and animals live where there is water. Some climates such as the polar and mountainous ones found in the Arctic or Northern Asia are so cold that people have to dress very warmly all year round. People, plants, and animals in these regions must adapt to these extremely cold temperatures. Other climates such as the tropical and subtropical ones found in Central Africa or parts of South America are so hot that people can wear light clothing throughout the year. In such climates people, plants, and animals also need to adapt.

