**Weather Fronts**

**Cold Front**

A cold weather front is defined as the change-over region where a cold air mass is replacing a warmer air mass. Cold weather fronts usually move from northwest to southeast. The air behind a cold front is colder and drier than the air in front. When a cold front passes through, temperatures can drop more than 15 degrees within an hour.

On a weather forecast map, a cold front is represented by a solid line with blue triangles along the front pointing towards the warmer air and in the direction of movement.

There is usually an obvious temperature change from one side of a cold front to the other. It has been known that temperatures east of a cold front could be approximately 55 degrees Fahrenheit while a short distance behind the cold front, the temperature can go down to 38 degrees. An abrupt temperature change over a short distance is a good indicator that a front is located somewhere in between.

**Warm Front**

A warm weather front is defined as the change-over region where a warm air mass is replacing a cold air mass. Warm fronts usually move from southwest to northeast and the air behind a warm front is warmer and moister than the air ahead of it. When a warm front passes, the air becomes noticeably warmer and more humid than it was before.

On a weather forecast map, a warm front is represented by a solid line with red semicircles pointing towards the colder air and in the direction of movement.

Again, there is typically a noticeable temperature change from one side of the warm front to the other, much the same as a cold front.

If colder air is replacing warmer air, it is a cold front, if warmer air is replacing cold air, then it is a warm front.

**Reading Questions**

*Answer these in complete sentences in your own sheet of paper.*

1. What is a cold front?
2. In what direction do cold fronts normally move?
3. What symbol is used to represent a cold front on a weather map?
4. Give an example of the type of temperature change you could witness from a cold front.
5. Draw what a cold front looks like. Be sure to use the words “cold air” and “warm air” as well as arrows to show the direction of movement.
6. What is a warm front?
7. In what direction do warm fronts normally move?
8. What happens to the air as a warm front passes through?
9. What symbol is used to represent a warm front on a weather map?
10. Draw what a warm front looks like. Be sure to use the words “cold air” and “warm air” as well as arrows to show the direction of movement.
11. “Colder air replacing warmer air” is what type of front?
12. “Warmer air replacing colder air” is what type of front?