

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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COLDEST TEMPERATURE ON RECORD

We always enjoy breaking records but so far this winter has not produced much record breaking cold. How far down must the temperature go to beat the lowest ever observed? Verkhoyansk, Siberia, with minus 90 degrees Fahrenheit, holds the world's record for cold at the ground level, though minus 133 degrees has been observed in the free air. The North Polar and South Polar regions enter the competition each with nearly minus 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Coming nearer home, we find minus 60 degrees Fahrenheit or a little lower has been recorded in northeastern Montana. White River, Canada, just north of Lake Superior, experienced minus 58 degrees in 1912, and Doucet, a new station in the Province of Quebec, minus 54 degrees last year. About the same temperatures were reported from northern Maine. Around minus 15 degrees Fahrenheit is the lowest for Boston and minus 10 degrees for New York. Inland at similar latitudes, it may be much colder. Prof. R. Dec. Ward points out that temperatures low enough to freeze mercury, about minus 40 degrees, have been recorded in Colorado, Nebraska, central Minnesota and Wisconsin, and minus 20 degrees occurs as far south as Tennessee and Texas. Zero temperatures have been recorded in the Gulf and Pacific coast states, though generally not near the coast line. The extreme tip of Florida is the only part of the United States which has never experienced a frost and 40 degrees Fahrenheit is its record low temperature.

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