

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SOME FOREIGN WINDS

The bora of the Adriatic and the mistral of southern France are winds that blow from a cold mountainous interior down to a warm coastal region, where they arrive as relatively cold winds, in spite of the fact that their descent involves some heating due to compression (dynamic heating). A moderate bora is called a "borina" and an exceptionally violent one a "boraccia". The mistral has been known to blow a railway train from the track in the valley of the Rhone.

The harmattan of West Africa is a dry, dusty wind from the Sahara and one that feels relatively cool; perhaps on account of causing rapid evaporation from the skin.

The simoom (not simoon), especially the variety blowing in southern Asia, is probably the hottest and most parching of all winds and is the terror of travelers in the regions where it occurs.

The etesians are northerly winds blowing in summer over the eastern Mediterranean.

The gregale is a northeast wind of the Mediterranean; especially a stormy one at Malta.

The khamsin is a hot, dry southerly wind blowing in Egypt in spring.

The leste is a hot, dry easterly wind of the Madeira and Canary Islands.

The levanter is a strong easterly wind of the Mediterranean; especially in the Straits of Gibraltar, where it is attended by damp or foggy weather.

The shamal is a northwesterly wind of Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf.

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