

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WEATHER FACTS

The lowest natural air temperature ever registered by accurate instruments was 133 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. This sample of frigid weather was not, however, found anywhere near the earth's surface, but at a height of about 10 miles above Java. The recording instrument was carried by a sounding-balloon.

The earth's atmosphere weighs 5,633,000,000,000 tons -- yet we use the comparison "as light as air"!

At Opid's Camp, California, on April 5, 1926, a little over an inch of rain fell in one minute. This was the fastest shower on record.

In Europe a considerable amount of ammunition left over from the world war has been used for producing great explosions, at times announced in advance, in order that the audibility of the sound at distant places might be noted. The results are expected to clear up some disputed points about physical properties of the atmosphere, especially at high levels.

There is no part of the earth where rain never falls, except, probably, in the interior of Greenland and Antarctica where the precipitation is all in the form of snow.

A streamer of the aurora borealis measured photographically in Norway extended to a height of 450 miles above the earth.

Some thirty or forty different systems of visible storm signals are displayed in different maritime regions of the world.

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