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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FOG, MIST AND HAZE

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Can you distinguish between fog, mist and haze? Even professional weathermen disagree about the precise meanings of these terms. The International Meteorological Organization is now considering the adoption of the following definitions, proposed by the Norwegian meteorologist, T. Bergeron:

Fog. Microscopically small water drops, which apparently are suspended in the atmosphere. Thus the air feels clammy and humid. On a closer examination one may even see the water drops floating past the eye. As a whole the fog looks whitish, except in the vicinity of industrial regions, where it gets a dirty yellow or gray color. In real fog, which is not on the point of dissolving, the horizontal range of visibility is less than one kilometer, at least in one direction.

Mist. Thin fog or foggy air, in which the range of visibility is greater than one kilometer. The air does not seem clammy or humid, because the minute water drops are much too small and scattered. Mist also often has a grayish color, and is thus distinguished from real fog.

Haze. Dust particles from arid regions, or salt particles, which are dry and so extremely small that they can not be felt nor be discovered by the eye, but which lend a characteristic smoky (hazy and opalescent) aspect to the air. Haze lays a uniform veil over the landscape and subdues its colors. This veil has a bluish tinge when viewed against a dark background (such as mountains), but a dirty yellow or orange tinge against a bright one (such as clouds at the horizon, snowy summits or the sun). It is thus distinguished from the grayish mist, the thickness of which it may sometimes attain.

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