

For release By Major A.H. Thiessen
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The air and the sun's heat! If we call the intensity of the sun's rays 1000 as it hits the top of the atmosphere at the equator at noon, then its strength at the surface would be only 612. This indicates how much is absorbed and reflected by the air. The radiation from the sun throughout the year varies less at the equator (612 to 517) than at any other place on the earth. It varies most at the poles, from zero for half the year to 494 at the North Pole when the sun is highest in June. This variation is due to the very considerable variation of the altitude of the sun. The sun's rays are less intense in winter, not only because they shine less directly, but also because they must penetrate a greater depth of air and are thus further depleted.
