

For release
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Snowline! Snow may occur in winter at sea level almost anywhere outside the tropics, and in the polar regions and at high elevations in any month of the year. It may seem strange, but snow is found all the year round from the poles to the very equator. At the poles it occurs at sea level; and as one approaches the equator, the line of perpetual snow rises higher and higher until at the equator it is perpetual at about 17,000 feet elevation. The factors besides elevation that determine perpetual snow are: amount of snowfall, steepness of slope, and exposure. Thus, on the northern or less sunny slope of the Himalayas, the snowline is at 19,000 feet, while on the southern it is at 16,500 feet, simply because more snow falls on the southern slope.