

# Quick Vocabulary

## Lesson 1

**air pressure** the pressure that a column of air exerts on the air or surface below it

**dew point** temperature at which air near the ground becomes fully saturated with water

**humidity** amount of water vapor in the air

**kinetic energy** the energy an object has due to its motion

**precipitation** water, in liquid or solid form, that falls from the atmosphere

**relative humidity** amount of water vapor present in the air relative to the maximum amount of water vapor the air can contain at that temperature

**variable** a quantity that can change

**water cycle** a series of natural processes in which water continually moves among oceans, land, and the atmosphere

**weather** atmospheric conditions of a certain place at a certain time

## Lesson 2

**air mass** large body of air with distinct temperature and moisture characteristics

**blizzard** violent winter storm characterized by freezing temperatures, strong winds, and blowing snow

**dominate** to exert the guiding influence on

**front** boundary between two air masses

**high-pressure system** large body of circulating air that has high pressure at its center and lower pressure on the outside

**hurricane** intense tropical storm with winds exceeding 119 km/h

**low-pressure system** large body of circulating air that has low pressure at its center and higher pressure on the outside

**tornado** violent, whirling column of air that comes in contact with the ground

# Quick Vocabulary

## Lesson 3

**computer model** detailed program that solves a set of complex mathematical formulas

**Doppler radar** specialized radar that can detect precipitation and movement of small particles and can approximate wind speed

**isobar** line on a map used to connect all places where air pressure has the same value

**surface report** describes a set of weather measurements made on Earth's surface

**upper-air report** describes wind, temperature, and humidity conditions above Earth's surface