

1: US Extremes and Records - www.enganchecubano.com

This is a list of points in the United States that are farther north, south, east, or west than any other location in the country. Also included are extreme points in elevation, extreme distances, and other points of peculiar geographic interest.

Weather and Climate View Indicators: Rising global average temperature is associated with widespread changes in weather patterns. Scientific studies indicate that extreme weather events such as heat waves and large storms are likely to become more frequent or more intense with human-induced climate change. This chapter focuses on observed changes in temperature, precipitation, storms, floods, and droughts. Why does it matter? Long-term changes in climate can directly or indirectly affect many aspects of society in potentially disruptive ways. For example, warmer average temperatures could increase air conditioning costs and affect the spread of diseases like Lyme disease, but could also improve conditions for growing some crops. More extreme variations in weather are also a threat to society. More frequent and intense extreme heat events can increase illnesses and deaths, especially among vulnerable populations, and damage some crops.

Summary of Key Points U. Average temperatures have risen across the contiguous 48 states since 1950, with an increased rate of warming over the past 30 years. Eight of the top 10 warmest years on record have occurred since 1980. Average global temperatures show a similar trend, and all of the top 10 warmest years on record worldwide have occurred since 1980. Within the United States, temperatures in parts of the North, the West, and Alaska have increased the most.

High and Low Temperatures. Many extreme temperature conditions are becoming more common. Since the 1950s, unusually hot summer days highs have become more common over the last few decades in the United States. Unusually hot summer nights lows have become more common at an even faster rate. Although the United States has experienced many winters with unusually low temperatures, unusually cold winter temperatures have become less common—particularly very cold nights lows. Record-setting daily high temperatures have become more common than record lows. The decade from 1990 to 2000 had twice as many record highs as record lows. Total annual precipitation has increased over land areas in the United States and worldwide. Since 1950, precipitation has increased at an average rate of 0.1 inches per year. However, shifting weather patterns have caused certain areas, such as the Southwest, to experience less precipitation than usual. In recent years, a higher percentage of precipitation in the United States has come in the form of intense single-day events. The prevalence of extreme single-day precipitation events remained fairly steady between 1950 and the 1980s but has risen substantially since then. Nationwide, nine of the top 10 years for extreme one-day precipitation events have occurred since 1980. The occurrence of abnormally high annual precipitation totals as defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has also increased. Tropical storm activity in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico has increased during the past 20 years. Storm intensity is closely related to variations in sea surface temperature in the tropical Atlantic. However, changes in observation methods over time make it difficult to know for sure whether a longer-term increase in storm activity has occurred. Records collected since the late 1950s suggest that the actual number of hurricanes per year has not increased. Increases and decreases in the frequency and magnitude of river flood events vary by region. Floods have generally become larger across parts of the Northeast and Midwest and smaller in the West, southern Appalachia, and northern Michigan. Large floods have become more frequent across the Northeast, Pacific Northwest, and parts of the northern Great Plains, and less frequent in the Southwest and the Rockies. Average drought conditions across the nation have varied since records began in 1880. The 1930s and 1950s saw the most widespread droughts, while the last 50 years have generally been wetter than average. However, specific trends vary by region. A more detailed index developed recently shows that over the period from 1950 through 2000, roughly 20 to 70 percent of the U.S. However, this index has not been in use for long enough to compare with historical drought patterns.

Temperature and Drought in the Southwest. The southwestern United States is particularly sensitive to changes in temperature and thus vulnerable to drought, as even a small decrease in water availability in this already arid region can stress natural systems and further threaten water supplies.

Weather and Climate Weather is the state of the atmosphere at any given time and place. Most of the weather that affects people, agriculture, and ecosystems

takes place in the lower layer of the atmosphere. Familiar aspects of weather include temperature, precipitation, clouds, and wind that people experience throughout the course of a day. Severe weather conditions include hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, and droughts. Climate is the long-term average of the weather in a given place. While the weather can change in minutes or hours, a change in climate is something that develops over longer periods of decades to centuries. Climate is defined not only by average temperature and precipitation but also by the type, frequency, duration, and intensity of weather events such as heat waves, cold spells, storms, floods, and droughts. While the concepts of climate and weather are often confused, it is important to understand the difference. It may be helpful to think about the difference between weather and climate with an analogy: Contact Us to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

2: The United States of Extremes Trivia Quiz | USA | FunTrivia

US Extremes and Records. www.enganchecubano.com is a user-supported site. As a bonus, site members have access to a banner-ad-free version of the site, with print-friendly pages.

Comment America is a wonderful country, with jaw-dropping wilderness and wide open spaces that seem as far removed from New York or Los Angeles as the moon. America has the best universities with the most brilliant scientists who win a host of Nobel Prizes year after year. These institutions produce works written in a readily understandable language based on a firm belief in the power of reasoning, rather than ivory tower musings with no connection to reality. In all cultural spheres, from classical to trash, this is where the avant-garde emerges, time and again. Capitalism is regularly reinvented in America before it sets out again to conquer the world. America still attracts immigrants from countries around the globe. And, of course, from a historical perspective, it remains a uniquely superior power. This country believes that it has a predetermined role in the history of mankind -- a manifest destiny. A horrendous country that betrays its own values every few years, thus forfeiting its moral right to lead the Western world. It elects presidents who know nothing about the world, and have no interest in learning more, which explains why they readily succumb to errors and illusions, only to reveal their utter amazement when they finally -- and usually too late -- admit their mistakes. Since , America has been fighting wars in countries that it knows very little about, and under premises that have almost nothing to do with reality. America is a superpower around the globe, but a Third World country at home, with an infrastructure that defies description. There are collapsing bridges, power failures along the entire East Coast, and homes in places like Florida, North Carolina and Texas are regularly destroyed every year by hurricanes that flatten houses as if they were beach bungalows in Haiti. There is also the obscene contrast between rich and poor, which has hardly interested or shocked any administration since Franklin Delano Roosevelt. What is even more obscene is the ignorance of a government that allows millions of people, in the richest country in the world, to live without health insurance. This is a government that stands by idly as the primarily black city of New Orleans disappears under floodwaters. Yes, the most obscene aspect of all remains the unacknowledged racism in this country of pragmatic enlightenment -- the ongoing prejudices of whites against blacks. America is an extreme country, and no one feels indifferent about it. No matter whether you live in Karachi, Hamburg or Tbilisi -- you are bound to have an opinion about America. The US has friends and enemies all around the globe. America serves as a role model for Western industrialized societies, a model based on the spirit of Protestantism. But it also provides a paragon example of the downsides of this approach: This country the size of a continent has fascinating strengths and unparalleled weaknesses. It inspires both devoted admiration and aggressive contempt. Ever since Alexis de Tocqueville traveled to the US in the early s, America has been the preferred object of study for sociologists, philosophers and historians because they rightly perceive this country as an experimental laboratory for the future. Invariably, they have either predicted its rise or its fall, and given perfectly plausible arguments for both theories. Nevertheless, the most perceptive and compelling books of the last two decades have not been written in Europe, but in America. When it comes to writing about America, both pro and con, America refuses to be outdone by others. Four years later, the Soviet Union had collapsed and its empire had vanished. America, which had suffered crisis after crisis during the s, quickly turned things around and experienced a surprisingly long economic boom during the s. Suddenly, the US was the only remaining superpower, with unique possibilities, and incomparably stronger than the Persian, Roman or British empires had been in earlier centuries. Sooner or later, he wrote, all countries on earth would adopt a combination of a market economy, democracy and the rule of law. Their ideal was to transform autocratic and dictatorial countries into liberal democracies, starting with the Middle East, in the hope that the rest of the world would follow. Today, in the autumn of , precious little remains of this exuberant optimism. The Middle East is just as plagued by conflict as ever. Everything seems plausible and possible, a war with Iran, peace with Syria, an agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, or even a third Intifada. Things could improve in Iraq, or a civil war could break out between Sunnis and Shiites. The administration vacillates between unilateral and multilateral actions, between

punitive sanctions and diplomatic initiatives. It has also been a sobering experience for America to see how little can be gained from its overwhelming military superiority, and how little can be achieved using war as a political tool to solve elementary problems. For the time being, all dreams of omnipotence have evaporated, gone is the illusion that America could handle everything, either alone or in concert with its allies, as it sees fit, pursuing either its own interests or for more altruistic reasons. The world is far more unmanageable than Fukuyama and the neoconservatives would like to believe. It is safe to assume that a superpower becomes increasingly unpopular as it exerts a greater degree of superiority. And when it indulges in self-righteous behavior, forfeits basic democratic rights, and grants powers to its president that are not easily reconciled with democratic principles, then it also loses the moral right to put things in order elsewhere. The following rule of thumb can be derived from this situation: A superpower like the US would be well advised, despite its superiority, to seek support and backing among its allies, even if this is nothing more than a ploy to dissipate suspicions that it is only acting in its own interests.

3: extreme states | Michael Cornwall, Ph.D.

The Golden State now owns the distinction of being home to both the hottest and coldest place in the continental United States in

The high impact of extreme weather on economic development, food security, health and migration was highlighted in the WMO Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2016. Compiled by the World Meteorological Organization with input from national meteorological services and United Nations partners, the report provides detailed information to support the international agenda on disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change. It also examined other long-term indicators of climate change such as increasing carbon dioxide concentrations, sea level rise, shrinking sea ice, ocean heat and ocean acidification. Global mean temperatures in 2016 were about 1.1°C above the 1951-1980 average. The five-year average 2012-2016 global temperature is the highest five-year average on record. The Arctic experienced unusually high temperatures, whilst densely populated areas in the northern hemisphere were gripped by bitter cold and damaging winter storms. Direct measurements of atmospheric CO₂ over the past years showed natural variations between 380 and 400 ppm. Socio-economic impacts were particularly severe for disasters with high economic impacts. Fuelled by warm sea surface temperatures, the North Atlantic hurricane season was the costliest ever for the United States and eradicated decades of development gains in small islands in the Caribbean such as Dominica. It also included a section on the relationship between climate and the Zika epidemic in the Americas in 2016. In 2016, weather-related disasters displaced 20 million people. Consistent with previous years, the majority of these internal displacements were associated with floods or storms and occurred in the Asia-Pacific region. Massive internal displacement in the context of drought and food insecurity continues across Somalia. In the Horn of Africa, the failure of the rainy season was followed by a harsh January-February dry season, and a poor March-to-May rainy season. Floods affected the agricultural sector, especially in Asian countries. Heavy rains in May triggered severe flooding and landslides in south-western areas of Sri Lanka. The negative impact of floods on crop production further aggravated the food security conditions in the country already stricken by drought, according to FAO and WFP. The oceans Global sea surface temperatures in 2016 were somewhat below the levels of 2015, but still ranked as the third warmest on record. Ocean heat content, a measure of the heat in the oceans through their upper layers down to 2000 meters, reached new record highs in 2016. The Statement said that the magnitude of almost all of individual components of sea level rise has increased in recent years, in particular melting of the polar ice sheets, mostly in Greenland and to a lesser extent Antarctica. For the second successive year, above-average sea surface temperatures off the east coast of Australia resulted in significant coral bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef. Over the past 10 years, various studies have confirmed that ocean acidification is directly influencing the health of coral reefs, the success, quality and taste of aquaculture raised fish and seafood, and the survival and calcification of several key organisms. These alterations have cascading effects within the food web, which are expected to result in increasing impacts on coastal economies. Cryosphere Sea ice extent was well below the 1979-2000 average throughout in both the Arctic and Antarctic. The winter maximum of Arctic sea ice was the lowest winter maximum in the satellite record. The summer minimum was the 8th lowest on record, but a slow freeze-up saw sea ice extent once again near record lows for December. Antarctic sea ice extent was at or near record low levels throughout the year. The Greenland ice sheet mass balance change from September to December was close to average. Despite the gain in overall ice mass this year, it is only a small departure from the trend over the past two decades, with the Greenland ice sheet having lost approximately 3 billion tons of ice mass since 2002. Northern Hemisphere snow cover extent was near or slightly above the 1966-2000 average for most of the year. This method combines millions of meteorological and marine observations, including from satellites, with models to produce a complete reanalysis of the atmosphere. The combination of observations with models makes it possible to estimate temperatures at any time and in any place across the globe, even in data-sparse areas such as the polar regions.

4: U.S. Climate Extremes | Extremes | National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

For instance, Alaska could be regarded as the highest state because Denali, at 20,320 feet (6,200 m), is the highest point in the United States. However, Colorado, with the highest mean elevation of any state as well as the highest low point, could also be considered a candidate for "highest state".

Denali, the highest point in the United States. The country is made up of one federal district, 50 states, and five self-governing regions. In this article, we explore the northernmost, southernmost, westernmost, easternmost, lowest and highest points of the US. It is found on the Arctic Coast of Alaska. There exists a distance of 1,000 miles from the North Pole. This point is named after British geographer, Sir John Barrow. It was named by Explorer Frederick William Beechey. Point Barrow is known for its ice conditions that manifest throughout most of the year. It normally has about 3 months that are ice-free. This conditions posed difficulties for early explorers like William Pullen, Thomas Simpson, and John Franklin to access it during the 1800s. Point Barrow is significant as a geographical landmark, as well as an expedition site and an archaeological site. It is a mark demarcating the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea. Both are marginal sea of the Arctic. For years, this point has been used for expeditions as a jumping-off point. It is found at the South Pole at a 9,000 feet elevation. This United States Scientific Station was built in 1956. Temperatures experienced range from -60 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. The areas around the station experience less ice accumulation compared to the rest of Antarctica, thus are habitable. The people found in this station are mainly researchers, considering that this station offers a perfect site for placing a space telescope. At the South Pole, the sun rises and sets only once. This means that people in those areas experience six straight days and six straight nights. A dry atmosphere with forceful blizzards and continuous periods of darkness are associated with the six month night period. These are particularly significant in astronomical observations. It was originally referred to as Orote Point. It is found at St. Croix on the east end. This point is known for the Millenium Monument and its geology. The Millenium Monument is situated above this point and is a mark for the azimuth of the first US sunrise of the year. The areas around Point Udall here have a unique geology composed of rotated and uplifted volcanic rock. The highest point of this mountain is at 6,000 meters above the sea level. Denali has the highest mountain peak in the North American continent. After Mount Everest and Aconcagua, it is the third most isolated and the third most prominent peak in the world. Denali is characterized by two summits and a meter prominence. It is a poor drainage water basin that is about 100 feet deep. The water in this basin is undrinkable. This is in part attributed to the accumulated salts over time which are as a result of repeated evaporation cycles. It supports plant and animal life. Those seen in the Badwater basin are aquatic insects, badwater snails, and pickleweed. The basin is a popular site for tourists. Evaporation may also lead to deposition of salts as clean crystals or cause crusted shapely basin bed once all the water evaporates. This page was last updated on May 28, 2014. By Sundra Chelsea Atitwa.

5: America, Land of Extremes: An Enigmatic Country Elects a New President - SPIEGEL ONLINE

Matter at Extreme States To e-, or not to e-, the question for the exotic "Si-III" phase of silicon It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of silicon when it comes to computing, solar energy, and other technological applications.

See Article History Alternative Titles: Besides the 48 conterminous states that occupy the middle latitudes of the continent, the United States includes the state of Alaska , at the northwestern extreme of North America, and the island state of Hawaii , in the mid-Pacific Ocean. The conterminous states are bounded on the north by Canada , on the east by the Atlantic Ocean , on the south by the Gulf of Mexico and Mexico , and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. The United States is the fourth largest country in the world in area after Russia , Canada, and China. The national capital is Washington , which is coextensive with the District of Columbia , the federal capital region created in Fishing boat at the harbour at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Its physical environment ranges from the Arctic to the subtropical, from the moist rain forest to the arid desert, from the rugged mountain peak to the flat prairie. Although the total population of the United States is large by world standards, its overall population density is relatively low. United StatesThe United States. The United States contains a highly diverse population. Unlike a country such as China that largely incorporated indigenous peoples, the United States has a diversity that to a great degree has come from an immense and sustained global immigration. Probably no other country has a wider range of racial, ethnic, and cultural types than does the United States. In addition to the presence of surviving Native Americans including American Indians, Aleuts , and Eskimos and the descendants of Africans taken as slaves to the New World, the national character has been enriched, tested, and constantly redefined by the tens of millions of immigrants who by and large have come to America hoping for greater social, political, and economic opportunities than they had in the places they left. Despite its relative economic self-sufficiency in many areas, the United States is the most important single factor in world trade by virtue of the sheer size of its economy. Its exports and imports represent major proportions of the world total. The United States also impinges on the global economy as a source of and as a destination for investment capital. The United States is relatively young by world standards, being less than years old; it achieved its current size only in the mid century. America was the first of the European colonies to separate successfully from its motherland, and it was the first nation to be established on the premise that sovereignty rests with its citizens and not with the government. In its first century and a half, the country was mainly preoccupied with its own territorial expansion and economic growth and with social debates that ultimately led to civil war and a healing period that is still not complete. In the 20th century the United States emerged as a world power, and since World War II it has been one of the preeminent powers. It has not accepted this mantle easily nor always carried it willingly; the principles and ideals of its founders have been tested by the pressures and exigencies of its dominant status. The United States still offers its residents opportunities for unparalleled personal advancement and wealth. However, the depletion of its resources, the contamination of its environment, and the continuing social and economic inequality that perpetuates areas of poverty and blight all threaten the fabric of the country. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica Land The two great sets of elements that mold the physical environment of the United States are, first, the geologic, which determines the main patterns of landforms, drainage, and mineral resources and influences soils to a lesser degree, and, second, the atmospheric, which dictates not only climate and weather but also in large part the distribution of soils, plants, and animals. Although these elements are not entirely independent of one another, each produces on a map patterns that are so profoundly different that essentially they remain two separate geographies. Since this article covers only the conterminous United States, see also the articles Alaska and Hawaii. To east and west this lowland rises, first gradually and then abruptly, to mountain ranges that divide it from the sea on both sides. The two mountain systems differ drastically. The Appalachian Mountains on the east are low, almost unbroken, and in the main set well back from the Atlantic. From New York to the Mexican border stretches the low Coastal Plain, which faces the ocean along a swampy, convoluted coast. The gently sloping surface of the plain extends out beneath the sea, where it forms the continental shelf , which, although submerged beneath shallow ocean water, is geologically identical to the

Coastal Plain. Southward the plain grows wider, swinging westward in Georgia and Alabama to truncate the Appalachians along their southern extremity and separate the interior lowland from the Gulf. West of the Central Lowland is the mighty Cordillera, part of a global mountain system that rings the Pacific basin. The Cordillera encompasses fully one-third of the United States, with an internal variety commensurate with its size. At its eastern margin lie the Rocky Mountains, a high, diverse, and discontinuous chain that stretches all the way from New Mexico to the Canadian border. Pent between the Rockies and the Pacific chain is a vast intermontane complex of basins, plateaus, and isolated ranges so large and remarkable that they merit recognition as a region separate from the Cordillera itself. These regions—the Interior Lowlands and their upland fringes, the Appalachian Mountain system, the Atlantic Plain, the Western Cordillera, and the Western Intermontane Region—are so various that they require further division into 24 major subregions, or provinces. The Interior Lowlands and their upland fringes Andrew Jackson is supposed to have remarked that the United States begins at the Alleghenies, implying that only west of the mountains, in the isolation and freedom of the great Interior Lowlands, could people finally escape Old World influences. GeographyLearn about the different physical landscapes that make up the American Midwest. This enormous region rests upon an ancient, much-eroded platform of complex crystalline rocks that have for the most part lain undisturbed by major orogenic mountain-building activity for more than 1,000,000,000 years. In the United States most of the crystalline platform is concealed under a deep blanket of sedimentary rocks. In the far north, however, the naked Canadian Shield extends into the United States far enough to form two small but distinctive landform regions: As in the rest of the shield, glaciers have stripped soils away, strewn the surface with boulders and other debris, and obliterated preglacial drainage systems. Most attempts at farming in these areas have been abandoned, but the combination of a comparative wilderness in a northern climate, clear lakes, and white-water streams has fostered the development of both regions as year-round outdoor recreation areas. Mineral wealth in the Superior Upland is legendary. Iron lies near the surface and close to the deepwater ports of the upper Great Lakes. South of the Adirondack Mountains and the Superior Upland lies the boundary between crystalline and sedimentary rocks; abruptly, everything is different. The core of this sedimentary region—the heartland of the United States—is the great Central Lowland, which stretches for 1,000 miles, 2,000 kilometres from New York to central Texas and north another 1,000 miles to the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. To some, the landscape may seem dull, for heights of more than 2,000 feet metres are unusual, and truly rough terrain is almost lacking. Landscapes are varied, however, largely as the result of glaciation that directly or indirectly affected most of the subregion. North of the Missouri—Ohio river line, the advance and readvance of continental ice left an intricate mosaic of boulders, sand, gravel, silt, and clay and a complex pattern of lakes and drainage channels, some abandoned, some still in use. The southern part of the Central Lowland is quite different, covered mostly with loess wind-deposited silt that further subdued the already low relief surface. Elsewhere, especially near major rivers, postglacial streams carved the loess into rounded hills, and visitors have aptly compared their billowing shapes to the waves of the sea. Above all, the loess produces soil of extraordinary fertility. The Central Lowland resembles a vast saucer, rising gradually to higher lands on all sides. Southward and eastward, the land rises gradually to three major plateaus. Beyond the reach of glaciation to the south, the sedimentary rocks have been raised into two broad upwarps, separated from one another by the great valley of the Mississippi River. The Ozark Plateau lies west of the river and occupies most of southern Missouri and northern Arkansas; on the east the Interior Low Plateaus dominate central Kentucky and Tennessee. Except for two nearly circular patches of rich limestone country—the Nashville Basin of Tennessee and the Kentucky Bluegrass region—most of both plateau regions consists of sandstone uplands, intricately dissected by streams. Local relief runs to several hundreds of feet in most places, and visitors to the region must travel winding roads along narrow stream valleys. The soils there are poor, and mineral resources are scanty. Eastward from the Central Lowland the Appalachian Plateau—a narrow band of dissected uplands that strongly resembles the Ozark Plateau and Interior Low Plateaus in steep slopes, wretched soils, and endemic poverty—forms a transition between the interior plains and the Appalachian Mountains. Usually, however, the Appalachian Plateau is considered a subregion of the Appalachian Mountains, partly on grounds of location, partly because of geologic structure. Unlike the other plateaus,

where rocks are warped upward, the rocks there form an elongated basin, wherein bituminous coal has been preserved from erosion. This Appalachian coal, like the Mesabi iron that it complements in U. Extensive, thick, and close to the surface, it has stoked the furnaces of northeastern steel mills for decades and helps explain the huge concentration of heavy industry along the lower Great Lakes. The western flanks of the Interior Lowlands are the Great Plains, a territory of awesome bulk that spans the full distance between Canada and Mexico in a swath nearly miles km wide. The Great Plains were built by successive layers of poorly cemented sand, silt, and gravel—debris laid down by parallel east-flowing streams from the Rocky Mountains. Seen from the east, the surface of the Great Plains rises inexorably from about 2, feet metres near Omaha, Nebraska, to more than 6, feet 1, metres at Cheyenne, Wyoming, but the climb is so gradual that popular legend holds the Great Plains to be flat. True flatness is rare, although the High Plains of western Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and eastern Colorado come close. More commonly, the land is broadly rolling, and parts of the northern plains are sharply dissected into badlands. Epimethius The main mineral wealth of the Interior Lowlands derives from fossil fuels. Coal occurs in structural basins protected from erosion—high-quality bituminous in the Appalachian, Illinois, and western Kentucky basins; and subbituminous and lignite in the eastern and northwestern Great Plains. Petroleum and natural gas have been found in nearly every state between the Appalachians and the Rockies, but the Midcontinent Fields of western Texas and the Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma, and Kansas surpass all others. Aside from small deposits of lead and zinc, metallic minerals are of little importance. The Appalachian Mountain system The Appalachians dominate the eastern United States and separate the Eastern Seaboard from the interior with a belt of subdued uplands that extends nearly 1, miles 2, km from northeastern Alabama to the Canadian border. They are old, complex mountains, the eroded stumps of much greater ranges. Present topography results from erosion that has carved weak rocks away, leaving a skeleton of resistant rocks behind as highlands. Geologic differences are thus faithfully reflected in topography. In the Appalachians these differences are sharply demarcated and neatly arranged, so that all the major subdivisions except New England lie in strips parallel to the Atlantic and to one another. The western side of this belt forms the long slender rampart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, containing the highest elevations in the Appalachians Mount Mitchell, North Carolina, 6, feet [2, metres] and some of its most handsome mountain scenery. On its eastern, or seaward, side the Blue Ridge descends in an abrupt and sometimes spectacular escarpment to the Piedmont, a well-drained, rolling land—never quite hills, but never quite a plain. Before the settlement of the Midwest the Piedmont was the most productive agricultural region in the United States, and several Pennsylvania counties still consistently report some of the highest farm yields per acre in the entire country. West of the crystalline zone, away from the axis of primary geologic deformation, sedimentary rocks have escaped metamorphism but are compressed into tight folds. Erosion has carved the upturned edges of these folded rocks into the remarkable Ridge and Valley country of the western Appalachians. Long linear ridges characteristically stand about 1, feet metres from base to crest and run for tens of miles, paralleled by broad open valleys of comparable length. In Pennsylvania, ridges run unbroken for great distances, occasionally turning abruptly in a zigzag pattern; by contrast, the southern ridges are broken by faults and form short, parallel segments that are lined up like magnetized iron filings. By far the largest valley—and one of the most important routes in North America—is the Great Valley, an extraordinary trench of shale and limestone that runs nearly the entire length of the Appalachians. It provides a lowland passage from the middle Hudson valley to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and on southward, where it forms the Shenandoah and Cumberland valleys, and has been one of the main paths through the Appalachians since pioneer times. In New England it is floored with slates and marbles and forms the Valley of Vermont, one of the few fertile areas in an otherwise mountainous region. Bantosh Topography much like that of the Ridge and Valley is found in the Ouachita Mountains of western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma, an area generally thought to be a detached continuation of Appalachian geologic structure, the intervening section buried beneath the sediments of the lower Mississippi valley. The once-glaciated New England section of the Appalachians is divided from the rest of the chain by an indentation of the Atlantic. Although almost completely underlain by crystalline rocks, New England is laid out in north—south bands, reminiscent of the southern Appalachians. The rolling, rocky hills of southeastern New England are not dissimilar to the

Piedmont, while, farther northwest, the rugged and lofty White Mountains are a New England analogue to the Blue Ridge. Mount Washington, New Hampshire, at 6,263 feet [1,909 metres], is the highest peak in the northeastern United States. The westernmost ranges—the Taconics, Berkshires, and Green Mountains—show a strong north-south lineation like the Ridge and Valley. Unlike the rest of the Appalachians, however, glaciation has scoured the crystalline rocks much like those of the Canadian Shield, so that New England is best known for its picturesque landscape, not for its fertile soil. The Atlantic Plain The eastern and southeastern fringes of the United States are part of the outermost margins of the continental platform, repeatedly invaded by the sea and veneered with layer after layer of young, poorly consolidated sediments. Part of this platform now lies slightly above sea level and forms a nearly flat and often swampy coastal plain, which stretches from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to beyond the Mexican border.

6: The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment

Finding extremes this far north is like finding good art in Paris. The dustily disheveled town harbors a good selection of scruffy saloons populated by locals who might give a traveler wildlife-spotting tips if you ask nicely.

July 15, Why temperature extremes matter Trends in global average surface temperature reveal the overall impact on climate of rising concentrations of greenhouse gases. We experience temperature locally, and through daily temperature extremes. In this way, changes in the frequency of very hot days or cool nights is a more meaningful indicator of how people, agriculture, and natural ecosystems are feeling the effects of climate change. Very warm days can pose human health risks, especially in places that lack air conditioning; can stunt crops or interrupt key growth stages; and can stress livestock and other animals, including commercially and recreationally valuable fish in rivers and streams. Cool nights also have important impacts. For example, extremely cold winter nights play a role in controlling pests such as pine beetles out West and the hemlock adelgid in the East. Conditions in Frequency of hottest days top and coldest nights bottom in compared to the average. Adapted from Plate 2. Download editable PDFs [here](#) and [here](#). Adapted from the BAMS State of the Climate report, these maps show the frequency of warm days and cool nights in compared to the long-term average. Days with high temperatures warmer than 90 percent of the “ record are considered warm days. Nights with low temperatures in the bottom 10 percent of the temperature record are considered cool nights. The warm days map shows places where the frequency of warm days was higher than the average in shades of red and places where the frequency of warm days was below the long-term average in blue. The cool nights map uses the opposite color convention: In terms of both warm days and cool nights, cool conditions prevailed across large parts of the North America, especially the eastern half of the continent. Across much of the rest of the globe, though, conditions were unusually warm compared to “ Graph adapted from Figure 2. The graph shows warm days and cool nights, relative to the “ record, from through Although temperatures diverge among continents from year to year, the overall global trend is clear: Very warm days can pose human health risks, especially in places that lack air conditioning; can stunt crops or interrupt key growth stages; and can stress livestock and other animals. Cool conditions prevailed across large parts of the North America, especially the eastern half of the continent. Everywhere else, conditions were unusually warm compared to “

7: Temperature Changes in the United States - Climate Science Special Report

Those who experience extreme states of mind often experience existential death and are trapped in infantile mindsets. They are unable to exist the realm between which we call life and are dependent.

The diagram shows specific examples of how climate change can affect human health, now and in the future. These effects could occur at local, regional, or national scales. The overall climate impact is summarized in the final gray column. For a more comprehensive look at how climate change affects health, and to see the environmental, institutional, social, and behavioral factors that play an interactive role in determining health outcomes, see the exposure pathway diagrams in chapters 2–8. Climate change is a significant threat to the health of the American people. The impacts of human-induced climate change are increasing nationwide. Rising greenhouse gas concentrations result in increases in temperature, changes in precipitation, increases in the frequency and intensity of some extreme weather events, and rising sea levels. These climate change impacts endanger our health by affecting our food and water sources, the air we breathe, the weather we experience, and our interactions with the built and natural environments. As the climate continues to change, the risks to human health continue to grow. Current and future climate impacts expose more people in more places to public health threats. Already in the United States, we have observed climate-related increases in our exposure to elevated temperatures; more frequent, severe, or longer-lasting extreme events; degraded air quality; diseases transmitted through food, water, and disease vectors such as ticks and mosquitoes; and stresses to our mental health and well-being. Almost all of these threats are expected to worsen with continued climate change. Some of these health threats will occur over longer time periods, or at unprecedented times of the year; some people will be exposed to threats not previously experienced in their locations. Overall, instances of potentially beneficial health impacts of climate change are limited in number and pertain to specific regions or populations. For example, the reduction in cold-related deaths is projected to be smaller than the increase in heat-related deaths in most regions. Every American is vulnerable to the health impacts associated with climate change. The impacts of climate change on human health interact with underlying health, demographic, and socioeconomic factors. Through the combined influence of these factors, climate change exacerbates some existing health threats and creates new public health challenges. While all Americans are at risk, some populations are disproportionately vulnerable, including those with low income, some communities of color, immigrant groups including those with limited English proficiency, Indigenous peoples, children and pregnant women, older adults, vulnerable occupational groups, persons with disabilities, and persons with preexisting or chronic medical conditions. In recent years, scientific understanding of how climate change increases risks to human health has advanced significantly. Even so, the ability to evaluate, monitor, and project health effects varies across climate impacts. For instance, information on health outcomes differ in terms of whether complete, long-term datasets exist that allow quantification of observed changes, and whether existing models can project impacts at the timescales and geographic scales of interest. Differences also exist in the metrics available for observing or projecting different health impacts. For some health impacts, the available metrics only describe changes in risk of exposure, while for others, metrics describe changes in actual health outcomes such as the number of new cases of a disease or an increase in deaths. This assessment strengthens and expands our understanding of climate-related health impacts by providing a more definitive description of climate-related health burdens in the United States. It builds on the National Climate Assessment 5 and reviews and synthesizes key contributions to the published literature. Acknowledging the rising demand for data that can be used to characterize how climate change affects health, this report assesses recent analyses that quantify observed and projected health impacts. The overall findings underscore the significance of the growing risk climate change poses to human health in the United States.

8: List of extreme points of the United States - Wikipedia

Select the desired region and parameter of interest using the form below to return a list of locations in the U.S. of the selected extreme. Region: Contiguous 48 States All 50 States Contiguous 48 & Alaska Contiguous 48 & Hawaii Extreme: Highest/Most Lowest/Fewest.

Maps top depict changes at stations; changes are the difference between the average for present-day and the average for the first half of the last century. Time series bottom depict the area-weighted average for the contiguous United States. Estimates are derived from long-term stations with minimal missing data in the Global Historical Climatology Network Daily dataset. The top panel depicts changes in the frequency of cold waves; the middle panel depicts changes in the frequency of heat waves; and the bottom panel depicts changes in the intensity of heat waves. Cold and heat wave frequency indices are defined in Zhang et al. Changes in warm extremes are more nuanced than changes in cold extremes. For instance, the warmest daily temperature of the year increased in some parts of the West over the past century Figure 6. In fact, all eastern regions experienced a net decrease Table 6. The decreases in the eastern half of Nation, particularly in the Great Plains, are mainly tied to the unprecedented summer heat of the s Dust Bowl era, which was exacerbated by land-surface feedbacks driven by springtime precipitation deficits and land mismanagement. Heat waves 6-day periods with a maximum temperature above the 90th percentile for increased in frequency until the mids, became considerably less common through the mids, and increased in frequency again thereafter Figure 6. As with warm daily temperatures, heat wave magnitude reached a maximum in the s. The frequency of intense heat waves 4-day, 1-in-5 year events has generally increased since the s in most regions except the Midwest and the Great Plains. Red bars indicate a year with more daily record highs than daily record lows, while blue bars indicate a year with more record lows than highs. The height of the bar indicates the ratio of record highs to lows red or of record lows to highs blue. For example, a ratio of 2: Changes in the occurrence of record-setting daily temperatures are also apparent. Very generally, the number of record lows has been declining since the lates while the number of record highs has been rising. Over the past two decades, the average of this ratio exceeds two meaning that twice as many high-temperature records have been set as low-temperature records. The number of new highs has surpassed the number of new lows in 15 of the last 20 years, with and being particularly extreme ratios of seven and five, respectively. Detection and Attribution 6. Nevertheless, some detectable anthropogenic influences on average temperature have been reported for North America and parts of the United States e. Some studies conclude that changes in anthropogenic aerosols have played a crucial role e. Notably, the Southeast has been warming rapidly since the early s. If the grid-box trend is found to be both detectable and either consistent with or greater than the warming in the All-Forcing runs, then the grid box is assessed as having a detectable anthropogenic contribution to warming over the period. Gray regions represent grid boxes with data that are too sparse for detection and attribution. The combined influence of anthropogenic and natural forcings was also detectable medium confidence over large subregions of North America e. In general, however, results for the contiguous United States are not as compelling as for global land areas, in part because detection of changes in U. As an example, the recent record or near-record high March-May average temperatures occurring in over the eastern United States were attributed in part to external natural plus anthropogenic forcing; 39 the century-scale trend response of temperature to external forcing is typically a close approximation to the anthropogenic forcing response alone. Another study found that although the extreme March warm anomalies over the United States were mostly due to natural variability, anthropogenic warming contributed to the severity. Nearly every modern analysis of current extreme hot and cold events reveals some degree of attributable human influence. Extreme temperature events in the United States for which attribution statements have been made. There are three possible attribution statements:

9: State of Climate in Extreme weather and high impacts | World Meteorological Organization

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