

North American Air Masses

Directions:

1. Fill in the chart below based on what you have read about the air masses in North America on pages 72-74.
2. Color each air mass TYPE in the table a different color. This will become your map key for the attached U.S. map.
3. Draw colored arrows on the U.S. map to show where the air masses are located. The color should correspond with your key.
4. Answer the questions that follow based on your map.

Type	Where It Forms	Temperature	Humidity
1.	Over ocean	Warm	Moist
Maritime polar	2.	Cold	Moist
Continental tropical	Over land	3.	4.
Continental polar	5.	6.	Dry

Questions:

1. Two ways air masses are classified are:

2. Which air mass is more humid, a **continental air mass** or a **maritime air mass**? Why?

3. Would a **maritime tropical air mass** or a **maritime polar air mass** have more moisture? Why?

4. Which two air masses affect the weather in Michigan?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

What kind of weather do they produce?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

5. What type of **air** (not the name of the air mass) are you likely to find in Washington state?

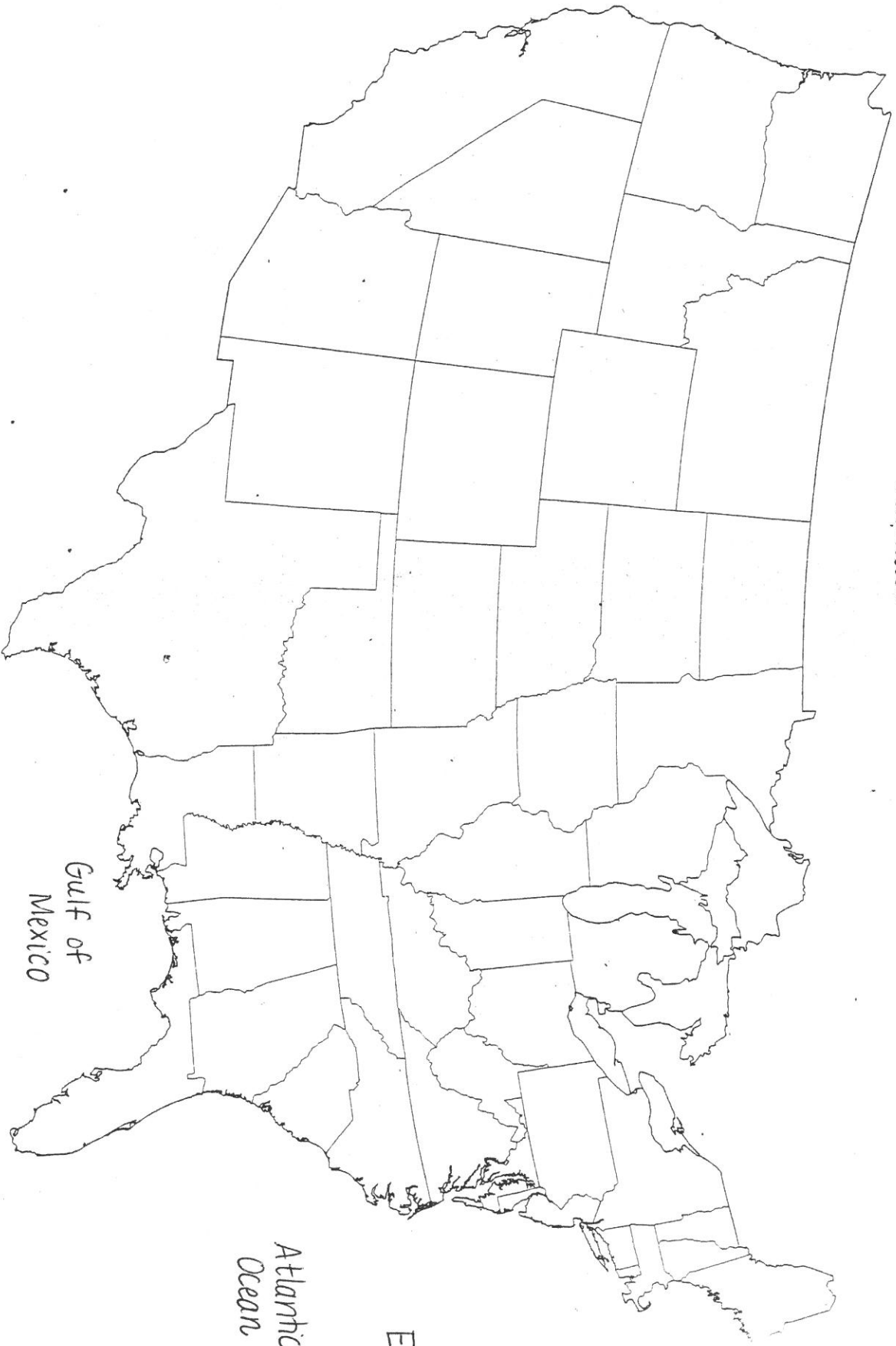
6. Where do continental polar air masses come from?

7. When air masses move from their points of origin, they tend to be changed by the land or water that they pass over. **Predict** how the following air masses might change when they move over the land.

A. Maritime Tropical air masses moving from the Pacific Ocean over Death Valley in California.

B. Continental polar air masses moving from northern Canada over the Great Lakes toward Michigan.

Challenge: What factor, besides wind, makes an air mass move?



Pacific
Ocean

W

Canada

N

Gulf of
Mexico

Atlantic
Ocean

E

S

