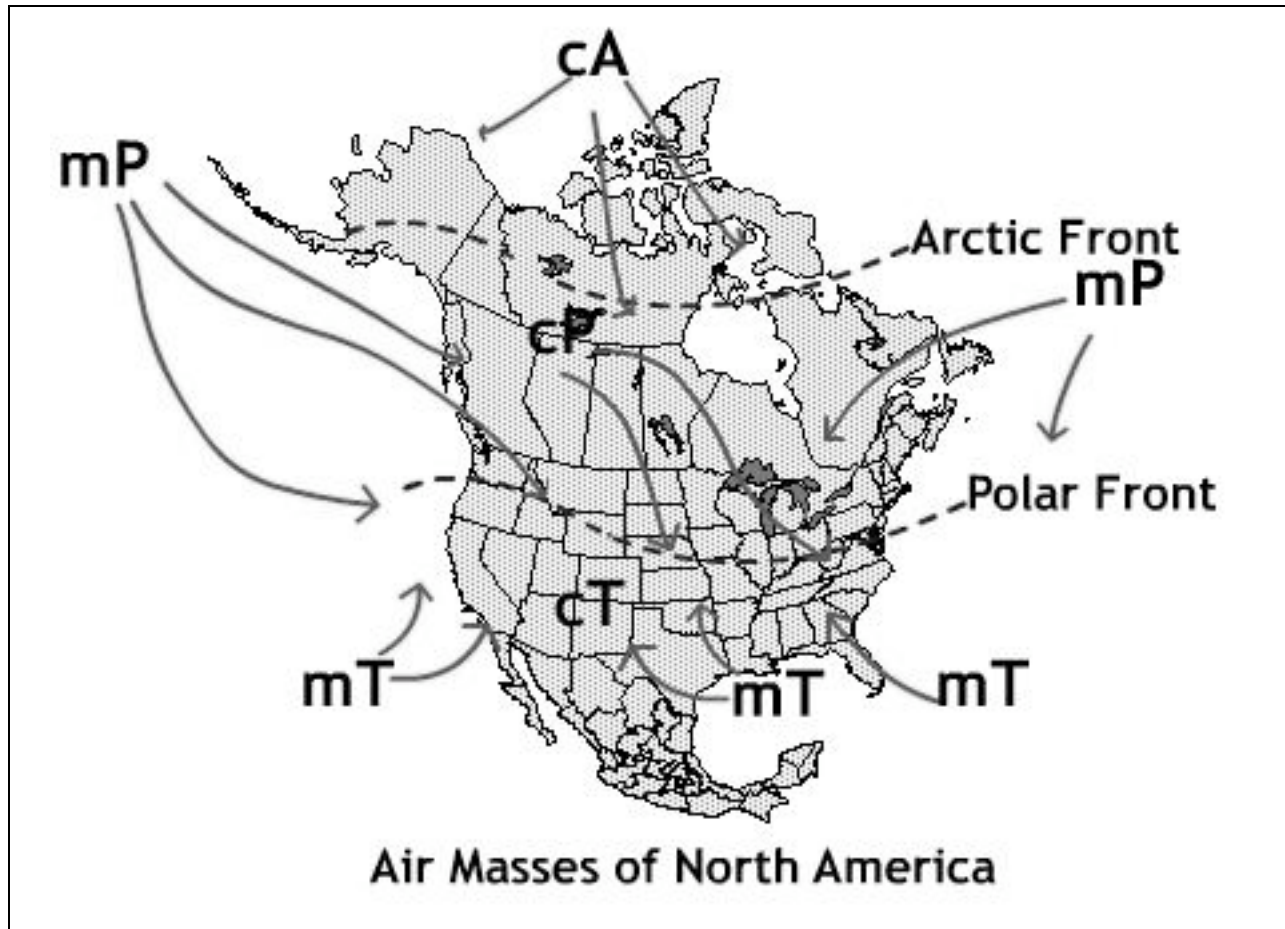


## North American Air Masses



Symbol	Air Mass	Characteristics
cA		
cP		
CT		
mP		
mT		

If the Earth did not rotate, air would sink south from the cold polar regions and rise north from the warmer tropics. But the Earth does rotate causing a curvature in the wind paths. The Coriolis effect explains the direction of movement of air masses. We demonstrated this in class using a marker and playground ball on a stick.

*You should know this because you live on the planet.*

in the northern hemisphere, air moves in a clockwise direction around high pressure and counterclockwise around low pressure.