

Feb 28 Explore Mountain Shadows and Moisture

A rain shadow is a dry or arid region on the backside or leeward side of a mountain range. The climate is desert-like because most of the moisture from the nearby ocean is released on the front side of the mountain range. The windward or ocean side of the mountain range has a wet climate caused by the rapid cooling of the moisture laden air as it moves up the mountain.

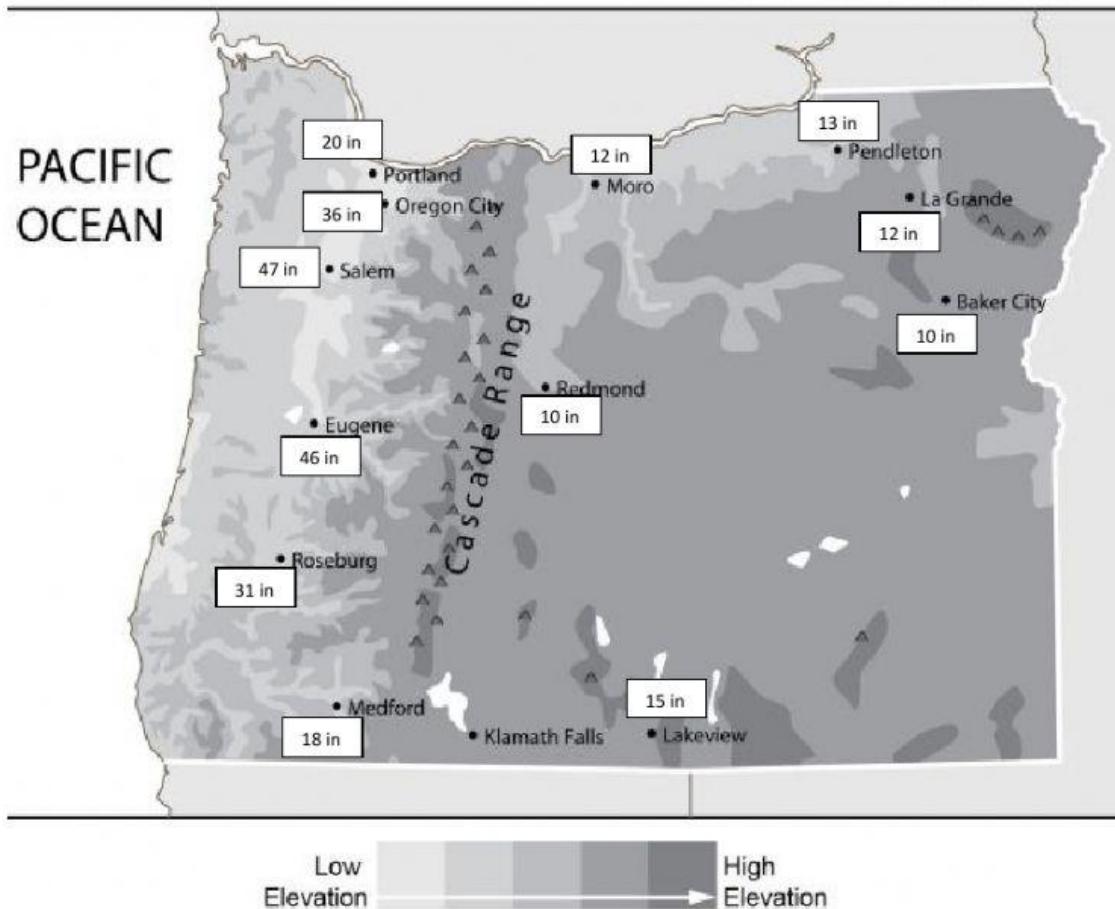


Procedure

1. Observe the map of the state of Oregon.
2. Locate the cities listed below.
3. Next to the name of each city place the amount of yearly rainfall in inches.

City	Yearly Rainfall in inches
Salem	
Pendleton	
Eugene	
Redmond	
Medford	
Lakeview	

MAP OF OREGON



Answer the following questions. Prepare to discuss with your classmates.

4. What pattern do you notice?
5. What might cause the pattern to repeat itself year after year?
6. Why are the rainfall amounts in Medford and Lakeview similar?

7. Which side of a mountain range would receive the most precipitation – the windward or leeward? Explain.
8. How does what you observed compare to the information found in the introductory paragraph?