



Figure 8.17 Surface Winds and Pressure Systems (Measured in Millibars) for January and July

moisture and temperature characteristics of these air masses have a direct influence on the climates of the areas over which they pass. In attempting to understand and explain both climate and weather conditions, we must look at the prevailing winds that are influencing a location. The importance of wind systems will become clearer as we discuss other climatic controls in the following sections.

QUESTIONS

10. What are some activities that are enhanced by windy days? What are some activities that are impeded by windy days?
11. Why is there a variation in the extent of the thermal equator north (12°) and south (8°) of the actual equator?
12. a) The "prevailing wind" refers to the wind direction which occurs most often in an area. What is the prevailing wind in your community?
b) Explain why the following decisions might be influenced by the prevailing wind: