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The term front was first used to describe weather systems during World War I in Europe. Meteorologists in Norway thought the boundaries between different air masses were much like the opposing armies on the battle front.

## **Cold Front**

A cold air mass meets and displaces a warm air mass. Because the moving cold air is more dense, it moves under the less-dense warm air, pushing it up.

Cold fronts can move fast, producing thunderstorms, heavy rain, or snow. Cooler weather usually follows a cold front because the warm air is pushed away from the Earth's surface.

## **Warm Front**

A warm air mass meets and overrides a cold air mass. The warm, less-dense air moves over the cold, denser air. The warm air gradually replaces the cold air.

Warm fronts generally bring drizzly precipitation. After the front passes, weather conditions are clear and warm.