TOPIC 4.8
Earth’s Geography and Climate

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING
ENG-2
Most of the Earth’s atmospheric processes are driven by input of energy from the sun.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE
ENG-2.8
Describe how the Earth’s geography affects weather and climate.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE
ENG-2.8.1
Weather and climate are affected not only by the sun’s energy but by geologic and geographic factors, such as mountains and ocean temperature.

ENG-2.8.2
A rain shadow is a region of land that has become drier because a higher elevation area blocks precipitation from reaching the land.

SUGGESTED SKILL
Visual Representations

2.B
Explain relationships between different characteristics of environmental concepts, processes, or models represented visually:
- In theoretical contexts
- In applied contexts

AVAILABLE RESOURCES
- Classroom Resource > AP Environmental Science Teacher’s Guide
- Classroom Resource > Introductory Concepts for Understanding Climate
- The Exam > Chief Reader Report, 2017 Q3
- The Exam > Student Performance Q&A 2016, Q1 & Q4
- The Exam > Samples and Commentary (2017 Q3, 2016, Q1, 2016, Q4)