



Moisture in Your Everyday Life

The questions here are related to real life experiences that you have had or may encounter at some time in your life. Answer the questions as a group. At the end of the allotted time each group will discuss their answers.

1. You live in Kansas and it is January. Your clothes dryer just broke and you have to hang your clothes out to dry on the clothesline. The weather conditions indicate a temperature of 32 °F and a dewpoint temperature of 20 °F. Will the clothes dry? Explain.
2. Explain why does it take longer for vegetables to cook at higher elevations. (Hint: consider the elevation and the temperature at which water will boil)
3. Would you expect water in a glass to evaporate more quickly on a windy, warm, dry summer day or on a calm, cold, dry winter day? Explain.
4. If you take a hot shower in the bathroom, the mirror will fog up. Explain why this happens. Explain why aiming a stream of air from a hair dryer at it will make the mirror clear again.
5. Two people with long thick hair live in different parts of the country; one in Arizona and one in North Carolina. In the summer if they both wash their hair and leave it to air-dry. One will have dry hair within an hour while the other person's hair not dry all day. Whose hair will remain damp and why?
6. Explain what is meant by the phrase "It's not the heat, it's the humidity."
7. During hot summer days in California, many people seek refuge in the shade where it is much cooler than in the sun. Explain why this method of keeping cool does not work in Illinois in mid-summer.
8. From a scientific perspective, what time of day would be the best time to water your lawn?
9. Why can you see your breath on a cold morning? Does the air temperature have to be below freezing for this to occur?



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10. Explain why icebergs are often surrounded by fog.

 11. During a summer visit to New Orleans, you stay in an air-conditioned motel. One afternoon, you put on your sunglasses, step outside, and within no time your glasses are “fogged up.” Explain what has apparently caused this.

 12. On a winter night, the air temperature cooled to the dew point and fog formed. Before the formation of fog, the dewpoint remained almost constant. After the fog formed, the dew point began to decrease. Explain why.

 13. Is humid air or dry air more dense?