

# Why Physical Geography?

How come we have fire and ice on the planet?

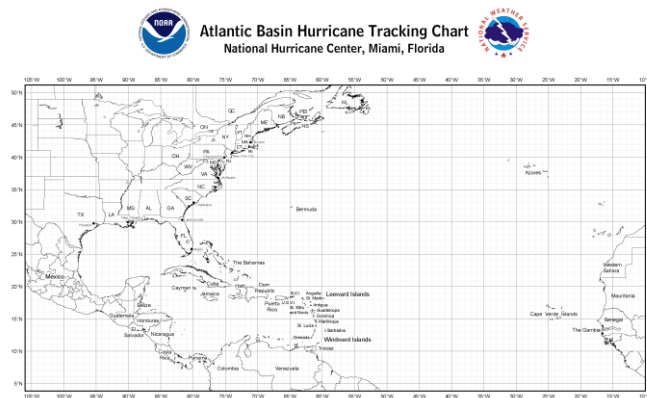


Grand Pitons, St Lucia



Sólheimajökull, Iceland

Well, what about our New England weather! Who remembers the mild winter we just had? What's this thing called a Nor'easter? And how does it affect us? How come wind storms keep knocking out our power?



Source: [http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/images/tracking\\_chart\\_atlantic.png](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/images/tracking_chart_atlantic.png)

The big difference between **Physical Geography** and other lab science courses is that in **Geography** we look at both the **natural landscape and the human one**.

After all Geography is:

*The study of people and their environments including the spatial distributions, movements and interactions.*

The course involves reading, watching videos, multiple choice style quizzes and labs. Everything is online.

I use the text by McKnight and Hess. **Physical Geography**, 9th ed. Prentice Hall, 978-0132239011. But feel free to get any contemporary Introductory Physical Geography text from Amazon or eBay to save \$.