

# Re: Weather And Latitude Are Not Allies

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- *From:* oriel36 <kelleher.gerald@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 31 Jan 2008 03:59:21 -0800 (PST)
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On 28 Jan, 04:32, xiko...@xxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

There is a popular assumption that if you move to higher latitudes (toward the poles) you can escape the heat, and that by moving to lower latitudes (toward the equator) you can escape the cold.

The equation is simple. But is it real? If it was, then the most northerly capital, Reykjavík, would also be the coldest...at least until they establish a country on Antarctica. Yes, it appears that latitude is slacking off and failing to keep temperatures in line.

This was brought home to me when preparing for a radio interview in Dublin, Ireland. February had just roiled in and I was sitting back comfortably in my good old Ottawa weather, scraping icicles off my toes. I was giddy with excitement over our warm spell, which it was reaching a high of minus-5 (that's about 20-degrees American). I always ask questions the day before an interview, to learn a bit about my audience, so I asked the producer, "So what's the weather forecast in Dublin?" asked.

"Oh it's horrible," she told me. "People are bracing for a deep winter freeze that's supposed to hit tonight. It might even get as cold as minus-5!"

This blew me away, that the folks in Dublin would be worried about the thermometer dips as low as ours spikes high. After all, isn't Dublin about the same latitude as Ottawa?

I whipped out my trusty atlas. We live almost exactly on the 45th parallel. If we lived exactly on it, we would have to share our bed with a cow and a dozen chickens across the road – that's how close we are.

I turned the pages to find Ireland. Could I have been mistaken? Is Dublin really quite south of us? No, it turns out that Dublin lies at the 53rd parallel. Hey! They should

<http://www.dontplayplay.com/html/Humor/20060929/25512.html>

## Re: Weather And Latitude Are Not Allies

It is easier to understand what occurs at different locations along the same latitude when you take a look at the Earth from a wider viewpoint, such as this graphic showing temperature oscillations –

[http://www.climateprediction.net/images/sci\\_images/annual.gif](http://www.climateprediction.net/images/sci_images/annual.gif)

Proximity to a maritime climate alters the meteorological conditions where, continental landmasses tend to generate extreme variations whereas ocean climates tend to modify the background conditions, you can just see the colder blue areas of North Eastern Canada in contrast to the warmer red areas of the Western European isles .

The major cause of the background conditions where Dublin Gets rain whereas Ottawa will get snow is closely related to the length of time a location spends in solar radiation and in the orbital shadow of the Earth (commonly known as the length of daylight to darkness) and the surface geography (whether it is continental landmass or Ocean). Unfortunately, the older and less accurate view prevails based on variable axial inclination to the Sun.

This would normally be a thriving subject for astronomers, Copernicus was the first to propose axial/equatorial inclination to the Sun to explain the seasons but this is a very different and less vibrant era and there is not the slightest sign that a required modification is long overdue.

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