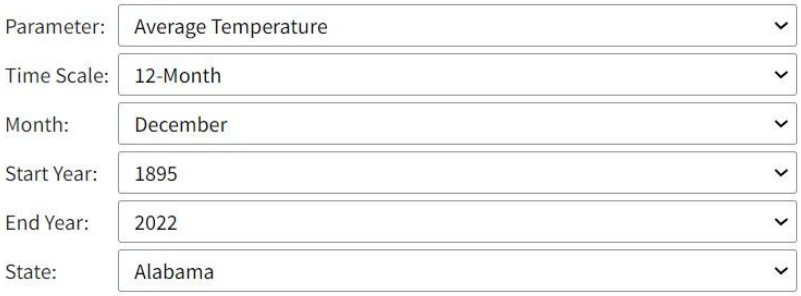
Climate of Your State

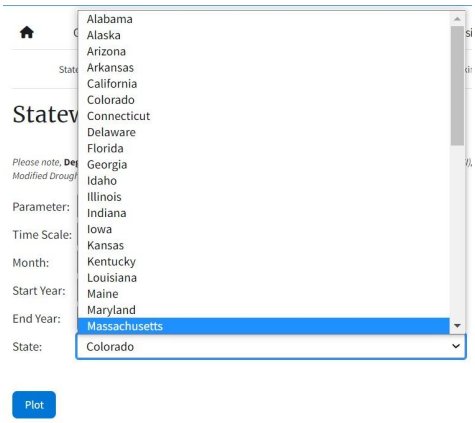
Name _____ Class _____

How has the climate changed in your state? Has the average temperature increased or decreased? How about record highs or record lows? Does your state receive more or less precipitation than 50 years ago? 100 years ago?

These questions can all be answered by looking at NOAA data. NOAA has temperature, precipitation and other data for all states going back to 1895. For this activity you will use this website: https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/statewide/time-series

On this website, from NOAA's National Center for Environmental Information, you will see this series of drop down choices:





The first thing you need to do is change the state. You can choose the state you live in, or a state you are interested in. Click on the drop down menu for **State** and choose the state of your choice.

My state is: _____

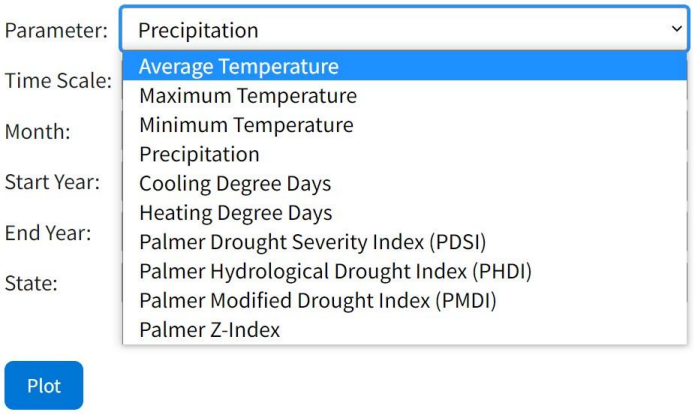
Now let's look at **Parameter**.

Average Temperature is the average of all temperatures recorded in the time scale.

Maximum Temperature is the average of all the highest recorded temperatures in the timescale. It is not the record highest temperature.

Minimum Temperature is the average of all the lowest recorded temperatures in the timescale. It is not the record lowest temperature.

Precipitation is the amount of liquid measured from rain, snow, or other precipitation type. In each state, records are collected in different areas, and those amounts are averaged together.



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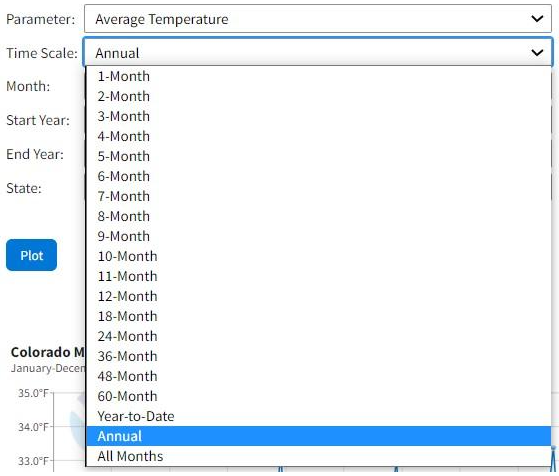
Let's start with **Average Temperature**. We will first look a **Time Scale** of **Annual**. This will show the average temperature over the course of an entire year. Choose 1985 as your **Start Year** and most recent year as your **End Year**. Click **Plot** and you will soon see a graph.



Look over the graph. What trends do you see? Write down two or more of your observations.

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_____

Now change the **Time Scale** to **1 month** and choose the first month you want to look at. This will show you the **Average Temperature** over just that month of each year. Now choose two other months to plot.

Month 1: _____ Month 2: _____ Month 3:_____

What similarities and differences do you notice between these plots?

_____

_____

Change the **Parameter** to **Maximum Temperature** and plot. Then change the **Parameter** to **Minimum Temperature**.

What similarities and differences do you notice between these plots?

_____

_____

Change the **Parameter** to **Precipitation** and the **Time Scale** to **Annual**.

What years were the wettest in your state? What years were the driest?

_____

_____

Stay on **Precipitation** and change the **Time Scale** to **1 Month**. Plot all 12 months.

Which months tend to be the wettest in your state? Which months are the driest?

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