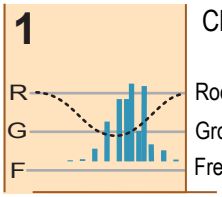
HINTS for matching CLIMAGRAPHS with PLACES

First, look at the curve that shows temperature.



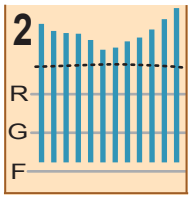
Chile

Room temperature
Growing season
Freezing

1. Hemisphere. If July is colder than January, the place is probably south of the Equator.

The "low sun season" is in June and July at places in the southern hemisphere.

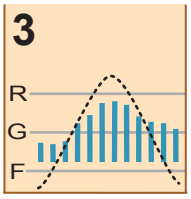
Singapore



2. Latitude. If it's hot in every month, the place is probably close to the Equator.

Summer temperatures decrease only gradually as you go away from the Equator, but winter temperatures go down quite rapidly.

Kansas City



3. Continentality. If winter is much colder than summer, the place is probably inland.

Places at the same latitude and elevation tend to have the same average temperature. A place near an ocean or large lake, however, has less difference between winter and summer than a place that is inland, far from the moderating effect of large bodies of water.

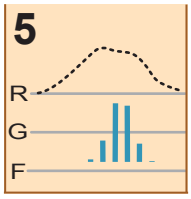
Next, examine the bars that show precipitation in each month.

4. Quantity. If it rains every month, it's near the Equator or about 45 degrees away.

The earth has three major rainy belts. One is a thunderstorm area near the Equator, The other two are airmass-collision zones in the middle latitudes (40-70°N and S). In between the rainy zones, the earth has four dry areas. Two are at the poles, where the air is too cold to have much water. Two are near the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, where sinking air makes deserts such as the Sahara, Arabian, Australian, Kalahari, and Mojave.

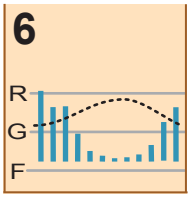
5. "Summer" monsoon. If summers are hot and rainy and "winters" are also warm but dry, the place is between the Equator and one of the Tropic lines.

A north-south shift of the Equatorial Rainy Belt causes a distinct rainy season at these latitudes. The rainy season gets shorter as you go farther away from the Equator.



Timbuktu

Monterey, California



6. "Winter" rains. If summers are dry and winters wet, the place is on a west coast.

When the Tropical desert climate shifts toward the poles in the high-sun season, it causes a dry summer near the west coasts about 35 to 55 degrees of latitude (remember, summer is in January and winter in July in the southern hemisphere).

Third, consider the location of mountains.

7. Elevation. If a place is colder than you expect, it may be on a mountain.

Temperature goes down about 3 to 5 Fahrenheit degrees for every 1000 feet you go up.

8. Rainshadow. If the place is drier than expected, it may be "behind" a mountain.

Compared with a plain, a mountain will be rainier on the slopes that face toward the wind, colder near the top, and drier in the "rainshadow," the side that faces away from the wind.

When you put these clues together, you should be able to tell roughly where a place is just by looking at its climagraph. This is a useful skill – it means that you do not have to memorize a lot of facts about a place; you just have to know where the place is in order to make a good guess about what kind of weather it is likely to have!