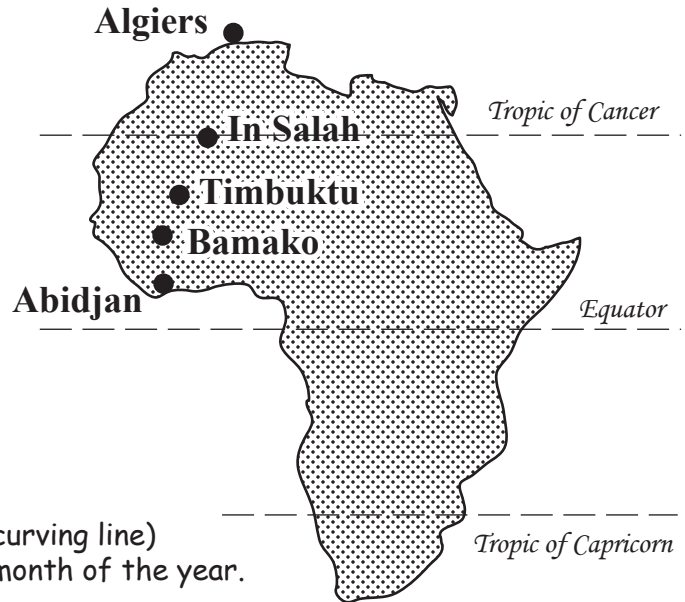
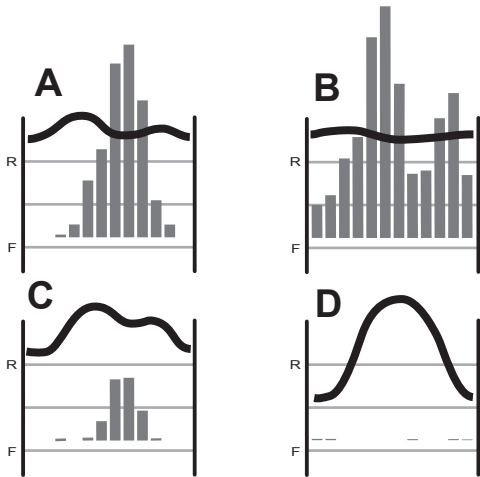


Climographs along a Geographic Transition: from Equatorial Rainforest to Tropical Desert

The climate of West Africa can be described as a gradual transition from rainforest to desert. A place midway between the Equator and the Tropic of Cancer gets less rain than the Equator. "Half as much rain," however, does not mean "half as much rain each month." On the contrary, it means "only half of the months have much rain." This is because the Equatorial Rainy Zone "follows the sun" on its annual movement from the Tropic of Cancer to the Tropic of Capricorn.



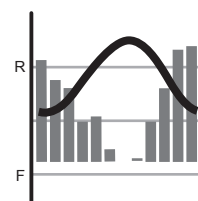
These climographs show the temperature (curving line) and precipitation (vertical bars) in each month of the year.

The top horizontal line indicates room temperature (20°C, 68°F); the bottom line shows freezing (0°C, 32°F).

Circle the appropriate graph letter for each place and write a brief reason.

	LETTER	REASON
In Salah	A B C D	_____
Timbuktu	A B C D	_____
Bamako	A B C D	_____
Abidjan	A B C D	_____

The north coast of Africa is too far from the Equator to be part of the rainforest-to-desert transition. Its climate is better viewed as a transition between Tropical desert and the mid-latitude zone of variable weather. What evidence for that idea can you see in this climograph from Algiers, a city on the Mediterranean coast?



What part of the United States has a similar summer-dry climate?