

Intro to Permaculture Climate and Topography Video Transcript

Music

So let's just dive right in and talk about the first piece of the Permaculture Decision Making Matrix: topography.

The shape of the land and how a topographic feature like a mountain range is oriented in relation to the sun and bodies of water will tell us a lot about where we are.

The side of a mountain range that is facing the direction of prevailing weather gets more precipitation, and creates a "rain shadow" on the other side.

As we go from the ocean into the interior of the continents, it gets drier.

Tall mountains intercept weather moving through, as you can see in this diagram of the Western US from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains.

These mountain ranges store snow at high elevations to slowly release into rivers below.