

Title: What is the Atmosphere?

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

kilometers	oxygen	planet	poisonous	scientists
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1. Humans would die if they did not have _____ to breathe.
2. Earth is the only _____ we know of with an atmosphere we can breathe.
3. _____ study lots of things to learn how they work.
4. The speed limit is 80 _____ per hour.
5. Some plants cannot be eaten because they are _____.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Earth's atmosphere has five levels. T / F
2. Air is made up of mostly oxygen. T / F
3. The second level of Earth's atmosphere is warmer than the first. T / F
4. It is often windy in places like the beach or in the mountains. T / F
5. Cold air holds a lot of water vapor. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Earth's atmosphere protects us from harmful (rain / sunlight).
2. The higher you go in the first level of the atmosphere, (the colder / the hotter) it gets.
3. (Two / Three) levels make up Earth's middle atmosphere.
4. Some say the upper atmosphere is actually part of (space / the middle atmosphere).
5. Clouds are made of water and (gas / dust).

C. Choose the best answer.

1. What do plants need air for?

- a. To breathe
- b. To grow seeds
- c. To be green
- d. To make food

2. Why do some people get sick climbing tall mountains?

- a. Because they don't like heights
- b. Because they are in bad health
- c. Because the air is very thin
- d. Because the mountains are scary

3. What do the second and third levels of the atmosphere do for us?

- a. They protect us
- b. They keep the Earth cool
- c. They make oxygen
- d. They make clouds

4. What can make the height of Earth's atmosphere change?

- a. The Sun
- b. Pressure
- c. Ozone levels
- d. The weather

5. What causes rain in the atmosphere?

- a. Water vapor cooling
- b. Strong winds
- c. High air pressure
- d. Large clouds

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

ozone	global	particles	power	harmful
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Everything between Earth and space is the atmosphere. The atmosphere is very important to all life on Earth. It has the air we breathe. It protects us from _____ sunlight, and it gives us weather. The atmosphere has five levels. Most of the Earth's air is in the first level. The middle atmosphere has two levels. It has the _____ in it. The highest level of the atmosphere can go up as far as 10,000 kilometers. But sometimes storms on the sun make it lower. The atmosphere gives us our weather. Hot and cold air moving around creates wind. Rain happens when water vapor cools and mixes with dust _____. This creates clouds. When enough water collects in clouds, it falls back to the ground. We have to protect the atmosphere from things like _____ warming. This is caused by our putting gases into the atmosphere and changing the way it works. Making _____ for cars and electricity creates these gases. We must save energy to take care of the atmosphere.