

Notes for Earth's Atmosphere

Atmosphere

- Blanket of gases that surrounds Earth, held in place by Earth's gravity, and extends 800 miles into space.

Composition

- 78% Nitrogen gas (N₂)
- 21% Oxygen gas (O₂)
- 1% Other gases: carbon dioxide (CO₂), ozone (O₃), water vapor (H₂O)
- Particulate solids: dust and salt (cloud formation)

Layers (Temperature and Composition)

- Troposphere – lowest layer – water vapor – all storms
- Stratosphere – ozone layer – blocks UV radiation
- Mesosphere – Coldest – Meteors burn up here
- Thermosphere – Warmest – Auroras
- Exosphere – outer layer - satellites