

# Earth's Atmosphere Facts

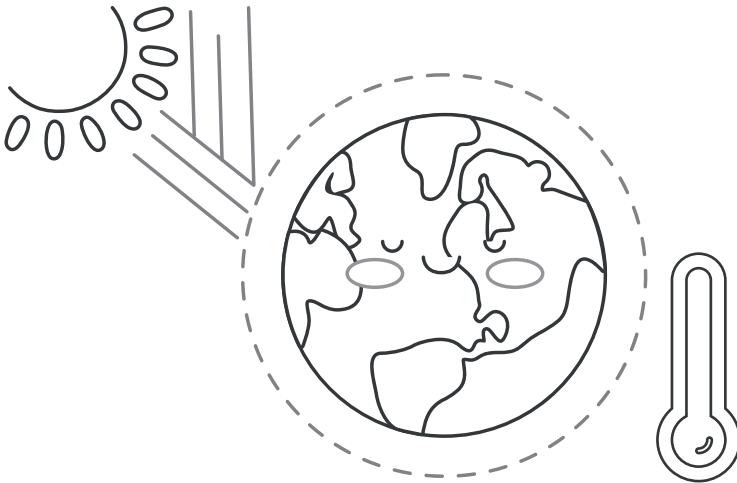


## 10+ Fun Facts About the Earth's Atmosphere

The atmosphere is a layer of gases surrounding our planet. The atmosphere is 78 percent nitrogen and 21 percent oxygen, the rest is argon, carbon dioxide, helium, neon, and other gases.



There's enough water in the atmosphere to soak the whole planet in an inch of rain.



The atmosphere is important for the survival of living things on earth as it protects us from harmful ultraviolet rays, contains an ozone layer, regulates climate change and overall earth's temperature, etc.

It has five major and several secondary layers. From lowest to highest, the major layers are the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, and exosphere.



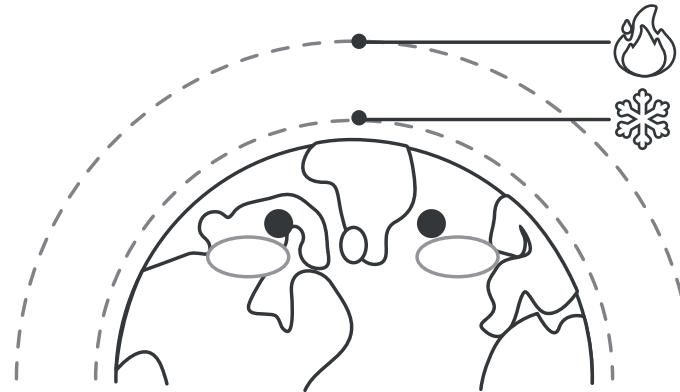
The lowest layer, the troposphere, begins at the surface of the earth and is where all the weather occurs. The height of the top of the troposphere varies

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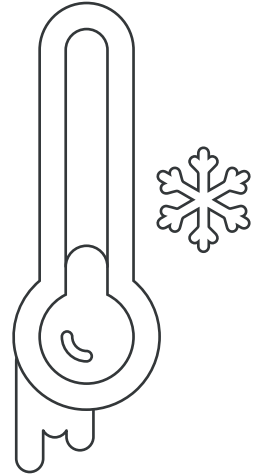


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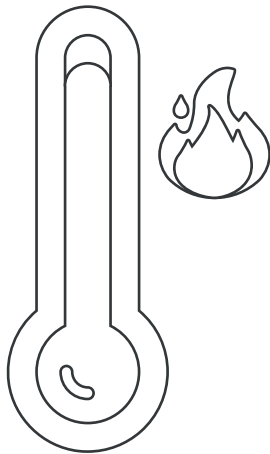
The second layer of the atmosphere, the stratosphere, is 21 miles thick, with cold air found at the bottom and hot air found at the top.



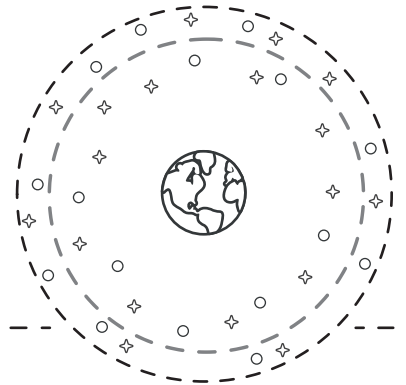
The third layer, the mesosphere, has the coldest temperatures: the top of the mesosphere has temperatures as low as -148 F.



The temperature in the next layer, the thermosphere, can reach up to 4,500 degrees Fahrenheit.



The higher atmosphere layer, the exosphere, extends from about 375 miles to 6,200 miles above the earth. Here, atoms and molecules escape into space, and satellites orbit the earth.



The sky should be violet, but the reason we see blue instead of purple is that the human eye is more sensitive to blue light than violet.

The earth is called "shiny blue marble" because, from space, it looks like one!

