

THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE – WORD LIST

- **absorb** = to take in
- **acid rain** = rain that has chemicals in it and can damage the world around us
- **activity** = thing that you do
- **agreement** = promise to do something about a problem, made by two or more people or countries
- **air pressure** = how heavy the air is
- **altitude** = how high an object is above sea level
- **amount** = quantity; how much of something
- **ban** = forbid, not allow
- **become aware** = here: know that a problem exists
- **block** = keep out
- **cancer** = bad disease in which cells in a part of the body grow in an uncontrolled way
- **carbon dioxide** = gas that is produced when we breathe out or when carbon is burned
- **carbon monoxide** = a poisonous gas that is produced when you burn fuel or wood
- **cause** = lead to
- **century** = a period of a hundred years
- **CFC = chlorofluorocarbon** = a gas that damages the ozone layer; it is in refrigerators and spray cans
- **combine** = to get together with
- **consist** = is made up of
- **continue** = keep on
- **create** = make
- **damage** = destroy, harm
- **decay** = to be slowly destroyed in a natural, chemical way
- **decrease** = to go down
- **dense** = many objects that are close together, in a small area
- **destroy** = damage completely
- **discover** = to find for the first time
- **drop** = go down
- **emit** = to send out
- **endanger** = to put in danger
- **equator** = a line around the middle of the Earth that divides it into two halves
- **erupt** = to break out with a lot of power
- **escape** = to get away from, get out of
- **especially** = above all
- **estimate** = to calculate something based on the information you have
- **evaporate** = to change slowly from liquid into gas
- **extend** = to go from one place to another
- **farther** = beyond
- **filter** = to let certain things in and keep other things out
- **fossil fuels** = energy like coal or oil that is produced by dead animals and plants in millions of years
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **gravity** = the power that makes things fall down to Earth
- **graze** = animals eat grass in the fields
- **harm** = to put in danger
- **heat** = warmth

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- **height** = how high something is
- **helium** = gas that is lighter than air and is used to make balloons float
- **hydrogen** = a colourless gas that is the lightest of all gases, forms water when it combines with oxygen
- **increase** = to go up
- **jet stream** = very strong winds at the top of the troposphere
- **located** = to be found; where something is
- **methane** = a gas that you cannot smell or see; it can be burned to give heat
- **moderate** = not too hot and not too cold
- **nevertheless** = yet, but
- **nitrogen** = a gas that has no colour or smell
- **nitrogen oxide** = when you combine nitrogen and oxygen
- **orbit** = to go around a planet or the sun
- **oxygen** = a gas that is in the air and that we need to breathe
- **oxygen mask** = mask you put on if there is not enough air around you to breathe
- **pleasant** = nice
- **pollute** = to make air, water etc.. dirty so that we cannot use it
- **present** = here: exist in the atmosphere
- **pressure suit** = a special suit you must wear to survive when you fly at great heights
- **prevent** = keep from doing something: to stop from happening
- **range from ... to ...** = to go from ... to ...
- **rapidly** = fast
- **ray** = a line of light
- **recover** = here: to get better
- **remain** = stay
- **responsible** = to cause something
- **rise** = go up
- **scientist** = a person who is trained in science and works in a lab
- **sea level** = the normal height of the sea; you use it as a standard for measuring other heights
- **set** = to go down
- **shield** = here: layer that protects us
- **sign** = to put your name on a document
- **speed** = how fast something is
- **spray can** = can that forces liquid out in very small drops
- **sulphur dioxide** = a gas that is very poisonous
- **surface** = the top part of an object
- **surround** = something is on every side
- **trap** = keep something in the same place and not let it out
- **treaty** = a written agreement between countries
- **ultraviolet light** = light that you cannot see but it makes your skin darker when you are in the sun
- **vital** = very important and necessary
- **weight** = how heavy something is
- **weightless** = without weight