

The Earth's Atmosphere

The earth is surrounded by a layer of gases called the **atmosphere**. The atmosphere is very important to life on Earth and does many things to help protect life and help life to survive.

The atmosphere protects Earth like a big blanket of insulation. It absorbs the heat from the Sun and keeps the heat inside the atmosphere helping the Earth to stay warm, called the **Greenhouse Effect**. It also keeps the overall temperature of the Earth fairly steady, especially between night and day. So we don't get too cold at night and too hot during the day. There is also a portion of the atmosphere called the **ozone layer**. The ozone layer helps to protect the earth from the Sun's radiation.

This big blanket also helps to form our weather patterns and climate. The weather keeps too much hot air from forming in one place and causes storms and rainfall. All of these things are important to life and the Earth's ecology. ducksters.com

Use the bold words to fill in the blanks.

1. The _____ helps to protect the earth from the sun's radiation.
2. A blanket of gases around the earth is the _____.
3. The holding of heat in the atmosphere to keep the earth warm is called the _____.

Write facts from the reading.

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