

The atmosphere is a blanket of gases surrounding the Earth. The gases are classified according to their temperature differences. The weight of those gases pressing down on earth is what creates air pressure.



## Key vocabulary

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### **atmosphere**

The mixture of gases that surrounds a planet, or the air in a particular place.

### **air pressure**

The density or weight of the air.

### **sea level**

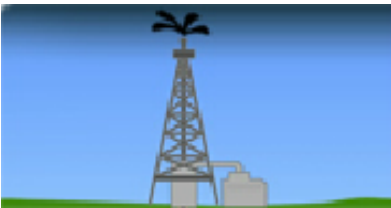
The average level of the surface of the ocean, used as a starting point from which to measure the height or depth of any place.

## Related articles



### The Nitrogen Cycle

Every living thing needs nitrogen, but it is not so easy to get. Thanks to some helpful bacteria, though, plants and animals are able to get the nitrogen they need to survive.



### The Carbon Cycle

Carbon is found in every living thing. Seriously! Did you ever wonder how it gets there?



### Air Pressure & Wind

Why is wind so powerful if you cannot even see it? Everything from a breeze to a hurricane is caused by air pressure.



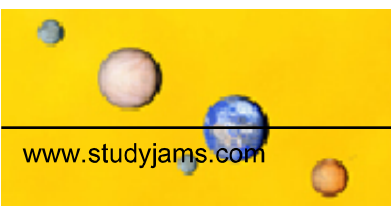
### Air Masses & Fronts

What has a constant temperature and humidity and is made of air? You guessed it! It is an air mass, and it has a big influence on weather.



### Light

Light is all around us, and we could not live without it. It also helps give our world all of its beautiful colors!



### Our Solar System: Inner Planets

The sun is surrounded by all kinds of planets, meteors, comets, and planetoids. It also has an asteroid belt and inside it are the inner planets.



Did you know that there is a name for all of the rock on earth? Sure is. Here are a few names that will come in handy.