

Meteorology

Meteorology is the study of the atmosphere and weather. A planet's **atmosphere** is the layer of gases that surrounds the planet.

Earth has five layers in its atmosphere:

1. **troposphere** (closest to Earth)
2. **stratosphere**
3. **mesosphere**
4. **thermosphere**
5. **exosphere** (farthest from Earth)

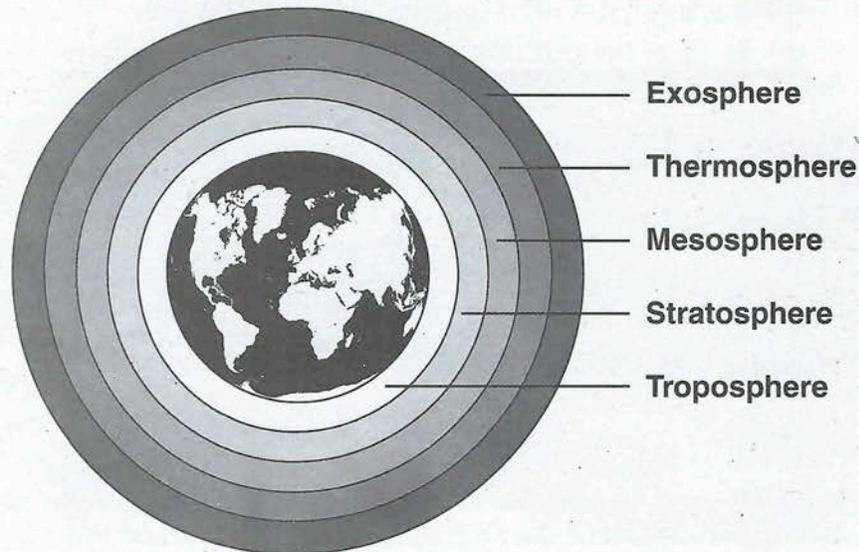
Earth's atmosphere is mostly oxygen and nitrogen, along with carbon dioxide, water vapor, and other gases.

Weather refers to the condition of the atmosphere, specifically the troposphere.

Weather may be hot or cold, wet or dry, calm or windy. **Climate** refers to the general or average weather of an area or place.

Temperature is the hotness or coldness of the air, while **humidity** is the amount of moisture in the air. **Air pressure**, also called **atmospheric** or **barometric** pressure, is the weight of gases pressing down on Earth. A **barometer** is an instrument used to measure air pressure.

Wind is air that is moving. Changes in atmospheric pressure cause wind, and wind changes cause weather changes.



Answer the Following

1. What causes weather to change? _____
2. What are the five layers of the atmosphere? Which is closest to Earth? _____

3. What is the difference between weather and climate? _____

4. What is the difference between temperature and humidity? _____

