

Air and the Atmosphere

Chapter 12: Air and the Atmosphere · Topic 1

Key Concept

Air is mostly made up of nitrogen (about 78%) and oxygen (about 21%), with small amounts of other gases like carbon dioxide.

The atmosphere has different layers, with the troposphere (closest to Earth) being where weather occurs and we breathe.

The atmosphere protects us from harmful radiation from the Sun and helps regulate Earth's temperature.

Air pollution, caused by factors like vehicle emissions and industrial waste, can harm the atmosphere and our health.

Quick Revision Notes

- Air is mostly nitrogen (78%) and oxygen (21%).
- Small amounts of other gases exist too.
- The atmosphere has different layers.
- The troposphere is closest to Earth.
- Weather occurs in the troposphere.
- The atmosphere protects us from radiation.
- It helps regulate Earth's temperature.
- Air pollution can harm the atmosphere and health.

Practice Questions

- 1 List the main gases in air.
- 2 Discuss why the troposphere is important.
- 3 Research a cause of air pollution.
- 4 Discuss how the atmosphere regulates temperature.
- 5 Explain why we need oxygen to breathe.
- 6 Discuss a way to reduce air pollution.