

Study Notes Properties of the Atmosphere

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1. Most of the weather in the United States flows from West to East
2. Sunlight is changed into heat when it is absorbed by Earth.
3. Solar radiation that is not reflected back into the atmosphere is absorbed by surface materials.
4. 70 percent of radiation from the Sun is absorbed by Earth's surface and by clouds and air.
5. Prevailing winds that blow West to East through the middle of the United States are called westerlies.
6. The unequal heating of air masses causes atmospheric circulation.
7. Temperatures increasing inside a sealed container under a lamp would be an example of the greenhouse effect.
8. The warming of the surface and lower atmosphere of Earth that occurs when carbon dioxide, water vapor, and other gases in the air trap the heat near Earth's surface is known as greenhouse effect.
9. 70 percent of the sun's light that reaches Earth is changed to heat.
10. The areas near the equator have different climate and weather than areas near the poles because they receive more solar energy than the areas near the poles.
11. Because of the Coriolis Effect, an object that travels north from the equator will curve to the right.
12. Governments around the world banned chemicals called CFC's because they destroy ozone in the upper atmosphere.
13. Albedo is the fraction of solar radiation reaching Earth that is reflected.
14. A molecule of ozone has 3 oxygen atoms and a molecule of atmospheric oxygen has 2 oxygen atoms.
15. Ozone is considered a pollutant in the troposphere where it impairs normal lung function.
16. Sunlight is changed into heat when it is absorbed by the atmosphere and Earth's surface.
17. The ozone layer protects living things from ultraviolet radiation.
18. The sun's rays do the greatest heating when the sun is directly overhead.
19. The curving of the paths of winds due to the rotation of Earth is called the Coriolis Effect.