

Skills Worksheet

Directed Reading B (Lesson 15-1)

Section: Characteristics of the Atmosphere

Circle the letter of the best answer for each question.

1. What is the atmosphere that surrounds the Earth made of?
 - a. oxygen
 - b. a mixture of particles
 - c. a mixture of gases
 - d. water vapor

THE COMPOSITION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

2. What gas is most of the atmosphere made of?
 - a. oxygen
 - b. nitrogen
 - c. carbon dioxide
 - d. argon
3. How much of the atmosphere is oxygen?
 - a. about 1%
 - b. about 78%
 - c. about 20%
 - d. about 100%
4. Where is most of the water in the atmosphere?
 - a. in rain
 - b. in ice
 - c. in water vapor
 - d. in carbon dioxide

Directed Reading B *continued*

ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE

Circle the letter of the best answer for each question.

5. At sea level, a square inch of the Earth is under how much air?
- a. 150 lbs
 - b. 15 lbs
 - c. 30 lbs
 - d. 1500 lbs

As Altitude Increases, Air Pressure Decreases

6. What pulls the gas molecules in the atmosphere down to the Earth?
- a. air pressure
 - b. gravity
 - c. water
 - d. solar energy
7. What measures the force that air molecules use to push on a surface?
- a. Earth's surface
 - b. altitude
 - c. water vapor
 - d. air pressure
8. Where is air pressure strongest?
- a. on top of a mountain
 - b. on the Earth's surface
 - c. in outer space
 - d. close to the sun

Directed Reading B *continued*

Atmospheric Composition Affects Air Temperature

Circle the letter of the best answer for each question.

9. Warmer parts of the atmosphere have more of these than cold parts.
- a. gases that make heat
 - b. gases that absorb water
 - c. gases that absorb cold
 - d. gases that absorb solar energy

LAYERS OF THE ATMOSPHERE

The Troposphere: The Layer in Which We Live

Read the description. Then, draw a line from the dot next to each description to the matching word.

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 10. coldest layer of the atmosphere | ● | a. troposphere |
| 11. atmosphere layer with the ozone layer | ● | b. mesosphere |
| | | c. stratosphere |
| 12. atmosphere layer closest to Earth | ● | d. thermosphere |
| 13. top layer of the atmosphere | ● | |

The Ionosphere: Home of the Auroras

Circle the letter of the best answer for the question.

14. Where is the ionosphere?
- a. in the troposphere
 - b. in the thermosphere
 - c. on the tops of mountains
 - d. at the bottom of the ocean