



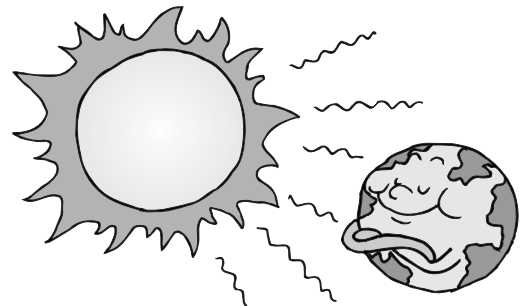
The Greenhouse Effect

Outer space is an empty, cold place but the heat from the Sun warms the Earth. The Earth has a greenhouse made up of gases that trap the heat of the Sun and enable life to exist.

The greenhouse surrounding the Earth is made up of invisible gases. The rays of light from the Sun are trapped inside this gaseous greenhouse keeping the temperature on Earth tolerable for living things.

The Earth's greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, water vapour, and methane. The main greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide which flows in a cycle. Plants take carbon dioxide out of the air, and animals take in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. This cycle keeps the supply of carbon dioxide in balance. The balance of carbon dioxide regulates the temperature of the Earth.

By comparison, the planet Venus has a very thick greenhouse layer, and the temperature there is an unbearable 450°C . Neptune has no greenhouse, and so its temperature is a freezing -200°C . Neither of these planets can sustain life.



Workout A

Write short answers to the following questions.

1. How does the greenhouse effect keep the Earth warm?

2. What are the Earth's greenhouse gases made up of?

3. What is the effect on Venus of a very thick greenhouse layer?

4. How important is the Sun to life on Earth?

5. Why is it so cold on Neptune?

6. What do you think would happen if the Earth's greenhouse disappeared?

7. What can we do to protect the Earth's greenhouse?



Words are often developed from root words.

EXAMPLE: The word "player" is formed from the root word "play".

Workout B

For each root word below, find the expanded word in the passage and write it in the space provided.

1. compare _____

2. gas _____

3. bear _____

4. tolerate _____

5. live _____

6. lay _____

7. temperate _____

8. vision _____

EXTRA Workout

1. Find a compound word in the passage.

2. What would happen if there were no plants on Earth?
