Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Key Concept Builder **LESSON 1**

Describing Earth's Atmosphere

Key Concept How did Earth's atmosphere form?

Directions: *Number the events from Earth's history to indicate the order in which they occurred to produce the atmosphere we have today. On each line, write a number from 1 to 10, with 1 being the earliest event.*

_____ Photosynthesizing organisms develop.

_____ The atmosphere becomes mostly water vapor and CO_2.

_____ Earth is a molten ball.

_____ The atmosphere becomes mostly nitrogen.

_____ The ancient oceans absorb CO_2 from the atmosphere.

_____ Earth's surface hardens.

_____ Oxygen and nitrogen make up 99 percent of the atmosphere.

_____ Heavy rains fall for thousands of years to form oceans.

_____ Volcanoes spew gases from Earth's interior into the atmosphere.

_____ Oxygen slowly builds up in the atmosphere.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Key Concept Builder **LESSON 1**

Describing Earth's Atmosphere

Key Concept What is Earth's atmosphere made of?

Directions: *On each line, write the term from the word bank that correctly completes each sentence. Some terms might be used more than once.*

acids	**ash**	**carbon dioxide**	**nitrogen**
oxygen	**ozone**	**pollen**	**water vapor**

1. About 78 percent of Earth's atmosphere is _____.

2. Another 21 percent is _____.

3. The gases making up the remaining 1 percent include three, in varying amounts: _____, _____, and _____.

4. The gas _____ is in the stratosphere; closer to Earth's surface in urban areas, it is considered to be a pollutant.

5. The atmosphere also contains solid particles, including _____ from plants and _____ from volcanoes.

6. Liquids in the air include _____ from evaporation and _____ from the burning of fossil fuels.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Key Concept Builder

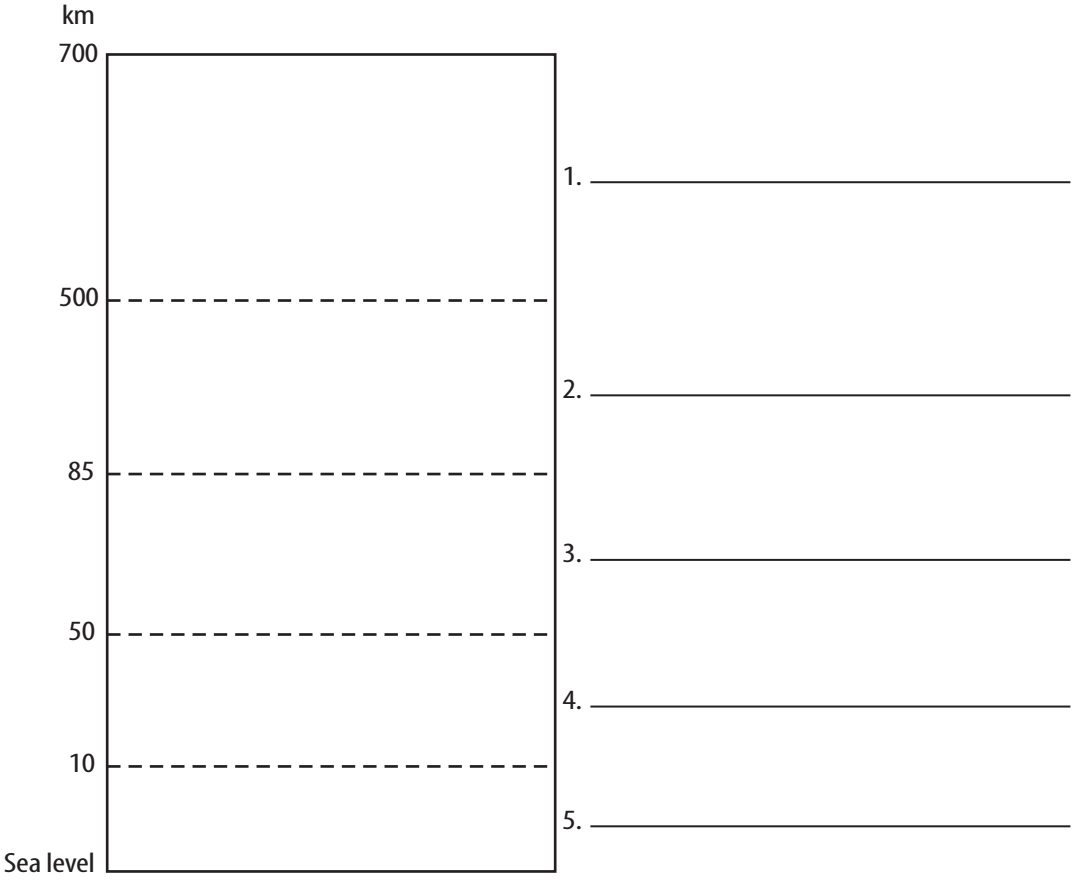
LESSON 1

Describing Earth's Atmosphere

Key Concept What are the layers of the atmosphere?

Directions: *Label this diagram by writing the correct term from the word bank on each line.*

exosphere **mesosphere** **stratosphere**
thermosphere **troposphere**



Directions: *On the lines in the diagram above, write the letter to indicate where each of the following things would most likely be located: small meteors* (M), *airplanes* (A), *satellites* (S), *clouds* (C), *and weather balloons* (B).

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Key Concept Builder **LESSON 1**

Describing Earth's Atmosphere

Key Concept How do air pressure and temperature change as altitude increases?

Directions: *On each line, write the term from the word bank that correctly completes each sentence. Some terms may be used more than once.*

air pressure	**density**	**exosphere**	**gravity**	**mesosphere**
ozone	**stratosphere**	**thermosphere**	**troposphere**	

1. The force that pulls the atmosphere toward Earth is _____.

2. This pull causes the atmosphere to exert a force called _____.

3. The more gas molecules that are in a given volume of air, the greater the _____ of the air will be.

4. In the _____ and the _____, temperature decreases with increasing altitude.

5. In the _____, the _____, and the _____, just the opposite occurs.

6. Temperature increases in the _____ are caused by the presence of _____, which readily absorbs solar radiation.