

| Testing for gases | |
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| Carbon dioxide | Turns limewater cloudy. |
| Chlorine | Turns damp litmus paper red than white. |
| Hydrogen | A lit splint burns with a squeaky pop. |
| Oxygen | A glowing splint relights. |

| Evolution of the atmosphere | |
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| Atmosphere | The layer of gases that surrounds the Earth. |
| Carbon dioxide | A colourless, odourless gas made from molecules containing one Carbon atom for every two Oxygen atoms. |
| Fossil fuels | Coal, oil and natural gas formed millions of years ago by the compression of the dead remains of plants and animals resulting in the locking away of large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. |
| Methane | A colourless, odourless gas made from molecules containing one carbon for every four hydrogen atoms. |
| Nitrogen | A colourless, odourless gas made from molecules containing two nitrogen atoms. |
| Oceans | Large bodies of saltwater. |
| Oxygen | A colourless, odourless gas made from molecules containing two oxygen atoms. |
| Photosynthesis | The process by which plants remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen. |
| Respiration | The process by which all living organisms remove oxygen from the atmosphere and release carbon dioxide. |
| Sediments | The particles of earth material that settled out of the water. |
| Volcano | A mountain formed from molten rock escaping from beneath the Earth's surface. Also releases gases into the atmosphere. |
| Water vapour | Water that has been evaporated and now exists as a gas in the atmosphere which can condense to form clouds. |

| Greenhouse gases and climate change | |
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| Absorb | To take in |
| Correlation | A mutual relationship between two things: when one thing changes, so does the other. Correlation *does not* mean causation. |
| Deforestation | The removal of large regions of forest by humans for other purposes. |
| Global warming | The gradual increase in average global temperature that has been increasing in recent years due to human activity. |
| Greenhouse effect | The effect caused by some gases in the atmosphere that prevents infrared radiation from escaping the Earth by reflecting it back to the surface, thus leading to an increase in surface temperature. |
| Greenhouse gases | Any gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect. |
| Ozone | A thin layer of the atmosphere, about 30 km up, where oxygen is in the form of ozone molecules. This layer absorbs UV radiation from the Sun. |
| Peer-review | The process by which scientific papers are scrutinised and checked by other members of the scientific community before publication. |
| Radiation | Heat transfer by electromagnetic waves. |

| Carbon footprints | |
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| Alternative energy | Energy obtained from resources other than fossil fuels |
| Carbon capture | Taking carbon dioxide from an industrial process and depositing it into underground rocks to prevent it entering the atmosphere. |
| Carbon footprint | The total amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced over the full lifecycle of a product, service or event. |
| Carbon neutral | Any process that has no overall release of carbon dioxide by balancing the amount of carbon dioxide released with the amount taken in. |
| Carbon off-setting | Carrying out activities that will increase the natural rate of removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere such as reforestation and tree planting. |

| Atmospheric pollutants | |
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| Acid rain | Rain that has been made more acidic due to dissolved sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen. Causes damage to ecosystems and buildings. |
| Global dimming | A reduction in the amount of sunlight reaching the surface of the Earth due to particulates. |
| Hydrocarbons | A compound containing only hydrogen and carbon. |
| Oxides of nitrogen | Pollutants formed when nitrogen reacts with oxygen at very high temperatures such as in a car engine. |
| Particulates | A form of atmospheric pollution made up of tiny particles such as soot or dust. |
| Pollutant | A chemical that contaminates the air, water or soil. |
| Sulfur dioxide | A gas that comes from burning of fuels such as coal and oil. It is a respiratory irritant and can damage plant tissues. |
| Toxicity | Measure of the harmfulness of a substance. |