

# Directed Reading A

## Section: Characteristics of the Atmosphere

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A mixture of gases surrounding a planet is the
- a. oxygen.
  - b. atmosphere.
  - c. breathable air.
  - d. hemisphere.

### THE COMPOSITION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The most common atmospheric gas is
- a. oxygen.
  - b. argon.
  - c. nitrogen.
  - d. carbon dioxide.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Phytoplankton and plants produce the atmosphere's
- a. oxygen.
  - b. argon.
  - c. nitrogen.
  - d. carbon dioxide.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Most water in the atmosphere is in
- a. rain.
  - b. ice.
  - c. water vapor.
  - d. carbon dioxide.

### ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. At sea level, a square inch of surface area is under almost how many pounds of pressure?
- a. 150
  - b. 15
  - c. 30
  - d. 1500
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Gas molecules in the atmosphere are pulled toward the Earth by
- a. air pressure.
  - b. the moon.
  - c. gravity.
  - d. surface area.

**Directed Reading A *continued***

7. The measure of the force with which air molecules push on a surface is called \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Explain what happens to air pressure as you move away from the Earth's surface.

---

---

9. Explain why parts of the atmosphere are warmer than others.

---

---

**LAYERS OF THE ATMOSPHERE**

Match the correct definition with the correct term. Write the letter in the space provided.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. coldest layer of the atmosphere

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. atmosphere layer including the ozone layer

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. layer of atmosphere closest to Earth

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. uppermost layer of the atmosphere

14. How are the layers of the atmosphere defined?

---

---

15. In the stratosphere, what happens to the temperature as altitude increases?

---

---

---

16. Electrically charged particles are called \_\_\_\_\_.

17. In polar regions, ions radiate energy as shimmering lights called \_\_\_\_\_.