

# Weather

## EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE

- ◆ Composition of the atmosphere - Earth's atmosphere consists of nitrogen (\_\_\_\_\_%), oxygen (\_\_\_\_\_%), small amounts of carbon dioxide, methane, argon, krypton, ozone, neon and other gases such as water \_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ During the day, the atmosphere regulates the amount of solar radiation reaching the earth and filter out much of the harmful \_\_\_\_\_ rays.  
During the night, the atmosphere, particularly water vapour, absorbs heat radiated from the earth which helps to keep us warm.
- ◆ Layers of the atmosphere
  1. T\_\_\_\_\_ - This layer reaches from sea level to about 10 000 metres above earth and contains much of the weather.
  2. S\_\_\_\_\_ - This stretches from 10 000 metres to 50 000 metres above earth and contains the ozone layer that absorbs much of the solar radiation to warm the planet.
  3. M\_\_\_\_\_ - This layer reaches from 50 000 metres to 80 000 metres and is much cooler than the lower layers.
  4. Thermosphere - This layer stretches from 80 000 metres to about 350 000 metres and contains rarified air that is very hot (about 1000°C).

## ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE

- ◆ Atmospheric pressure - The pressure or the 'weight' of the air \_\_\_\_\_ from place to place depending on \_\_\_\_\_, humidity and altitude.
- ◆ Hectopascal - unit of measurement of atmospheric pressure. Equal to 1000 newtons per square metre
- ◆ Average atmospheric pressure at sea level - At sea level, the average atmospheric pressure is \_\_\_\_\_ hPa, but this varies according to \_\_\_\_\_ and water \_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ High atmospheric pressure - Cold dry air is \_\_\_\_\_ than other air so it remains close to the earth, giving \_\_\_\_\_ weather.