

## Describing Earth's Atmosphere

### **Overview:**

Students brainstorm and write a paragraph describing Earth's atmosphere. The paragraph includes a topic sentence, contains at least three supporting sentences and uses vocabulary terms.

### **Objectives:**

The student will:

- brainstorm an idea using pictures and words;
- write and identify a topic sentence for a paragraph;
- write a complete paragraph with at least three supporting sentences; and
- demonstrate understanding of vocabulary words by using them in a paragraph.

### **Materials:**

- Highlighters (one per person)
- *Aurora Alive* multimedia video playlist
- STUDENT WORKSHEET: "Describing Earth's Atmosphere"

### **Activity Procedure:**

1. Ask students to review the interactive *Aurora Alive* playlist regarding Earth's atmosphere. Distribute highlighters and the STUDENT WORKSHEET: "Describing Earth's Atmosphere."
2. Ask students to draw Earth's atmosphere in the box provided on the worksheet. Include (and label) each of the items in the word bank.
3. Next, ask students to write a paragraph describing Earth's atmosphere. The paragraph should include a topic sentence and at least three supporting sentences. It must also include at least three words from the word bank.
4. When students have completed their paragraphs, ask them to highlight the topic sentence and the three words from the word bank before sharing the paragraph with a partner.

### **Answers to Student Worksheet:**

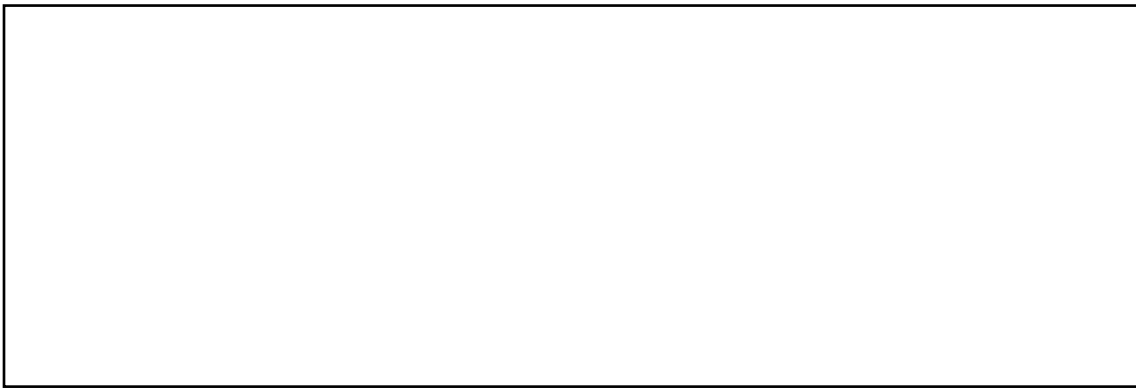
1. *Drawing depicts Earth's atmosphere and the word bank items are labeled.*
2. *The paragraph describes Earth's atmosphere in at least 4 sentences, including a topic sentence and at least 3 words from the word bank.*
3. *The topic sentence and 3 words from the word bank are highlighted in the paragraph.*

# Describing Earth's Atmosphere

WORD BANK

upper atmosphere    lower atmosphere    buffer zone    aurora  
gases    oxygen    nitrogen

1. Draw Earth's atmosphere. Use the words from the word bank to label your drawing.



2. Describe Earth's atmosphere by writing a complete paragraph. Include a topic sentence and at least three supporting sentences. Use at least three words from the word bank.

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3. Once the paragraph is complete, highlight the topic sentence and the three words from the word bank.