The atmosphere: atmospheric pressure

EST

_____ Date: _

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Complete this concept review handout and keep it as a record of what you have learned.

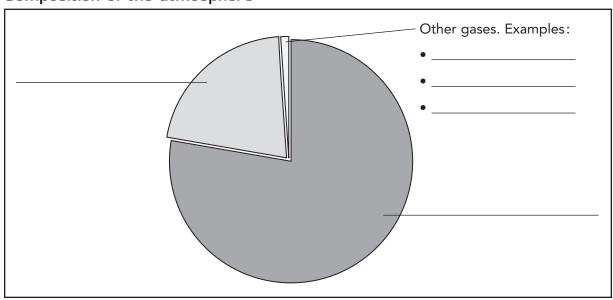
Definitions

The atmosphere is	
• Air is	
Atmospheric pressure is	
Unit of measurement:	Symbol:

Role of the atmosphere in maintaining life on Earth

•	
•	
•	

Composition of the atmosphere



Layers of the atmosphere

Layer	Altitude	Distinctive features
		•
Thermosphere	80–500 km	 The hottest layer of the atmosphere, temperatures climb to 1800°C. Shooting stars and polar auroras form here.
		•
		•
		•
		•
		•

Factors affecting atmospheric pressure

Factor	Variation in the factor	Effect
Number of air particles		•
		•
Temperature of air particles		•
	Decrease	 Particles move closer together and the air tends to fall. A high-pressure area (anticyclone) forms.