

Heat Waves

Directions: Read the passages below and on page 1. Then answer the questions that follow.

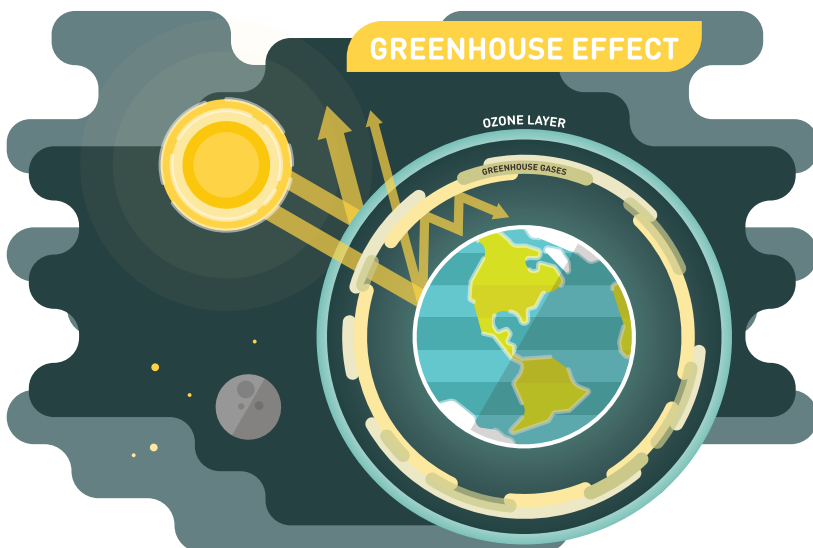


Heat Waves and the Greenhouse Effect

Many scientists believe the recent increase in heatwave activities are correlated with the Earth's **greenhouse effect**.

When energy from the sun enters the Earth's atmosphere, it can get trapped. This is called the greenhouse effect.

When sunlight warms the surface of the Earth, the heat will radiate through the atmosphere and back towards space. Some of this heat is able to escape the planet, but much of the sun's energy is absorbed by the ocean and land, or reflected back to the earth by clouds and greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide. This heat then recycles back to our planet and can continue to warm the surface.



Heat Wave Safety Tips

Stay hydrated.

Drink water. Avoid drinking salty, syrupy, carbonated, or caffeinated drinks.

Stay indoors.

If you do go outside, stick with a buddy.

Dress appropriately.

Wear light, loose fitting clothes.

Cool down.

If you don't have access to air conditioning, take a towel, soak it in cold water, and wear it around your neck. It will keep your body cool.

Questions

1. What are two safety tips you can follow during a heat wave?

Sample answer: Stay hydrated and stay indoors.

2. How do heat waves form?

Heat waves can form when warm, high pressure systems stop moving and stick around in certain regions.

3. What is the urban heat island effect?

This is when a city's conditions prolong a heat wave.