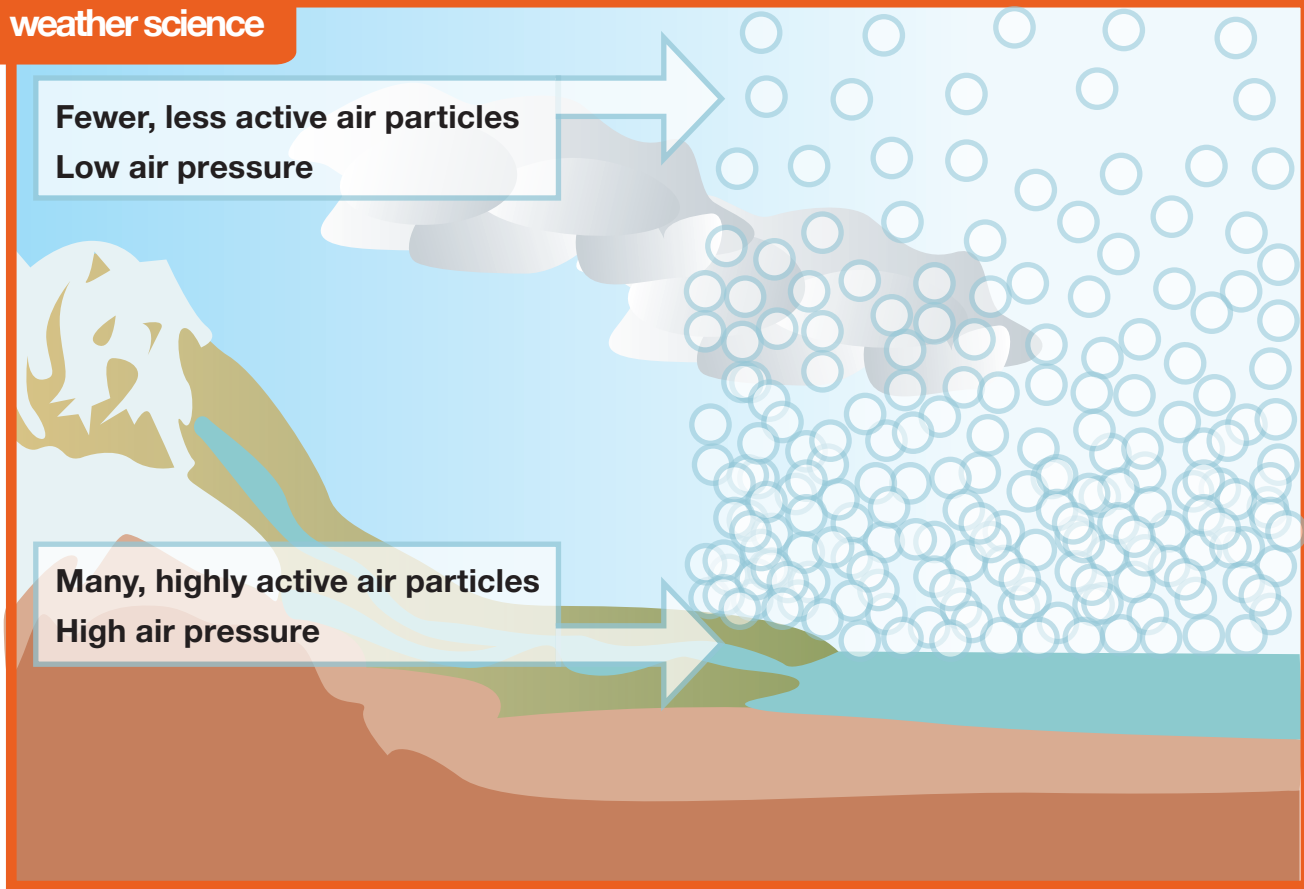


What is Air Pressure?

weather science



Did you know millions of little particles called **air molecules** fill the air around you? You may think nothing is there, but air molecules are so tiny that our eyes are unable to see them. These molecules also take up space and carry weight.

Since people live on the ground and not in the sky, trillions of air particles in a **high pressure** environment weigh them down. The reason you aren't crushed by these molecules is because you're also made up of lots and lots of air particles, balancing

pressure outside of your body. This helps you stay firm and not squishy.

If you've ever travelled by airplane, your ears may have popped. This is because the number of air molecules decreases the higher you climb the atmosphere. The higher you are, the **lower the air pressure is**. Ear popping balances the pressure between the inside and outside of your ear.

Now that you've learned all about air pressure, answer the question below.

Why do you think a balloon filled with helium floats, while one filled with air doesn't?