

### SC21a The early atmosphere

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
<b>atmosphere</b>	<i>at-moss-fear</i>	The layer of gases that surrounds the Earth.
<b>composition</b>	<i>comp-o-zi-shun</i>	The combination of parts that add up to make something. For example, the composition of today's atmosphere is 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 1% argon and other gases.
<b>volcanic activity</b>		The release of gases and/or molten rock by volcanoes.

### SC21b The changing atmosphere

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
<b>hypothesis</b>	<i>hi-poth-e-sis</i>	A scientific explanation that is thought up and suggested to explain something. It is used to make predictions that can be tested scientifically.
<b>photosynthesis</b>	<i>fOh-toh-sinth-e-sis</i>	A series of enzyme-catalysed reactions carried out in the green parts of plants. Carbon dioxide and water combine to form glucose. This process requires energy transferred by light.

### SC21c The atmosphere today

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
<b>absorb</b>		To soak up or take in.
<b>causal link</b>		A relationship between two variables, where scientists can show that a change in one variable makes a change occur in the other. For example, burning more fossil fuels (change in first variable) increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (change in another variable, caused by the first).
<b>climate change</b>		Changes that happen to the global weather patterns as a result of global warming.
<b>correlation</b>	<i>cor-a-lay-shun</i>	A relationship between two variables, so that if one variable changes so does the other. This can be positive or negative.
<b>emit</b>		To give out.
<b>global warming</b>		The rise in mean surface temperatures on the Earth, thought to be due to increasing amounts of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.
<b>greenhouse effect</b>		The 'trapping' of warmth by greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere due to radiation from the atmosphere warming the surface of the planet.
<b>greenhouse gas</b>		A gas that helps to trap 'heat' in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, methane and water vapour are greenhouse gases.
<b>infrared</b>		Electromagnetic radiation that we can feel as heat.
<b>resolution</b>		The smallest change that can be measured by an instrument. For example, in a thermometer it is the smallest temperature change that can be measured.