

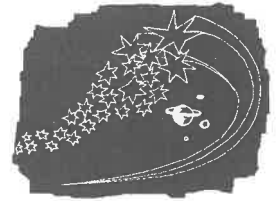
What Is Space?

The earth is surrounded by a layer of air called the **atmosphere**.

The atmosphere contains several different gases.

The main gases that make up air are:

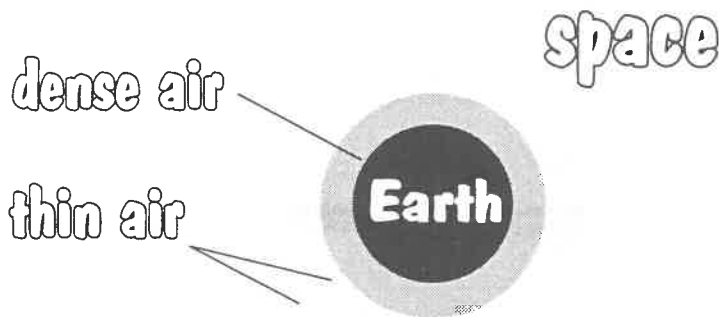
oxygen and nitrogen



We can not see, taste or smell air. The air protects us from the dangerous rays of the sun called ultraviolet rays.

The atmosphere determines the weather on earth. It acts as a blanket, stopping the sun's heat from escaping at night. The atmosphere gradually becomes thinner and lighter as we move away from the earth. Beyond the earth's atmosphere is **SPACE**.

Earth, which appears so large to us, is actually a small dot in space. Out in space there is no weight, no sound and no gravity. There is gravity on earth. This keeps our air in place.



Air for life!

Without air, could we breathe? _____

hear? _____

stay warm? _____

fly? _____

play in the sun? _____

smell? _____

stand in the rain? _____

A cartoon illustration of an astronaut in a space suit, holding a long, thin tube that loops around the text area.

Galactic word search

Find the meanings of these words.

atmosphere, space, gas, gravity, planet, galaxy, universe, orbit, astronaut, astronomy, astrology, moon, satellite, probe, solar

Knowing the meanings of these words will help you understand more as we study space.