

Solar Heating of the Earth

The Sun's _____ energy is very important to survival on Earth. If the Earth were to receive too much energy or too little energy from the sun, life on this planet would not be possible.

The _____, which is located in the _____, is an extremely important factor in the heating of the Earth. This layer of ozone protects us from many of the _____ rays and a lot of the extra radiation the sun gives off. Along with keeping away dangerous radiation, the ozone layer also helps keep heat close to the Earth; this is called the _____. It works much like a greenhouse, used for growing _____; the ozone layer _____ heat close to the surface of the Earth, allowing organisms to live here.

Like the ozone layer, _____ can also reflect the sun's energy. Clouds are located in the _____. Sometimes clouds block radiation, allowing for the temperature on the surface of the Earth to cool down.

Once the solar energy gets to the surface of the Earth it heats up the _____ or _____. Land absorbs heat energy very _____ so it doesn't take as long for the sun to heat it up during the day or for it to cool down at night. This is why the _____ on the beach feels so hot during the day and so cold at night.

_____ takes a lot more solar energy in order to heat up so it happens more _____. Because water doesn't absorb heat very quickly, it takes longer to heat up and cool down. This is why it takes nearly the whole summer for the _____ to get warm, but once it does, it even feels warm at _____. This characteristic of water is very important to survival on Earth because the oceans make up _____ of the surface of the Earth, therefore, regulating the Earth's _____.

Word Bank				
sand	land	Stratosphere	harmful U.V.	70%
Greenhouse Effect	plants	water	traps	clouds
Troposphere	Ozone layer	solar	quickly	
slowly	ocean	night	temperature	water