

Earth's Atmosphere Notes

I. Importance of Atmosphere

a. Most important - _____

b. Provides Gasses we need

i. Nitrogen (_____) - Essential for _____

ii. Oxygen (21%) - _____

iii. Water Vapor (0-5%) - Large role in weather

iv. Trace Gasses (<1%) - Neon, Helium, Methane, Krypton, Xenon, Hydrogen, Oxone, Argon,
Carbon Dioxide

c. Provide Warmth and _____

d. Prevents Danger from _____ & _____

II. Troposphere (term tropo means _____)

a. Closest to Earth - up to _____

b. Most Mass

i. Contains _____

c. Also contains _____

d. Weather, clouds and smog

e. Temperature drops as you travel upwards

i. _____

III. Stratosphere

a. Located _____

b. Contains _____ layer which is about _____

i. _____

c. Weather balloons, pressurized planes fly at lowest levels

d. Temp _____ due to _____

i. Ranges from _____

IV. Mesosphere

a. Located between _____

b. Meso - _____

c. Provides protection from _____

d. Temperature _____ as you travel upward

i. Ranges from _____

V. Thermosphere

a. Located between _____

b. Ionosphere

i. Layer of _____

ii. Energy from sun causes gas molecules to become ions

1. absorb AM Radio waves during the day, _____ them at night

2. meteor trails visible

3. light displays such as _____

c. Temperature rises as altitude _____

i. Ranges from _____

VI. Exosphere (continuation of _____)

a. Molecules so spread out that _____

b. Temperature rises from _____

c. No clear boundary between our atmosphere and _____

d. _____ orbit in exosphere

VII. Division of Layers

a. Pauses – layers are separated by pauses

i. Isothermal layers – temperature _____

ii. i.e. _____, _____, & _____