

TOPIC 4.4

Earth's Atmosphere

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

ERT-4

Earth's systems interact, resulting in a state of balance over time.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

ERT-4.D

Describe the structure and composition of the Earth's atmosphere.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

ERT-4.D.1

The atmosphere is made up of major gases, each with its own relative abundance.

ERT-4.D.2

The layers of the atmosphere are based on temperature gradients and include the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, and exosphere.

SUGGESTED SKILL

 *Visual Representations*

2.A

Describe characteristics of an environmental concept, process, or model represented visually.



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Classroom Resource > ["Weather or Not": AP Environmental Science and the Atmosphere](#)
- Classroom Resource > [Introductory Concepts for Understanding Climate](#)
- The Exam > [Chief Reader Report 2018, Q4](#)
- The Exam > [Samples and Commentary 2018, Q4](#)