The Structure of the Earth's Atmosphere

Read the passage. Look at the infographic.

The Earth's atmosphere is made up of five distinct layers above the surface where humans live day to day.

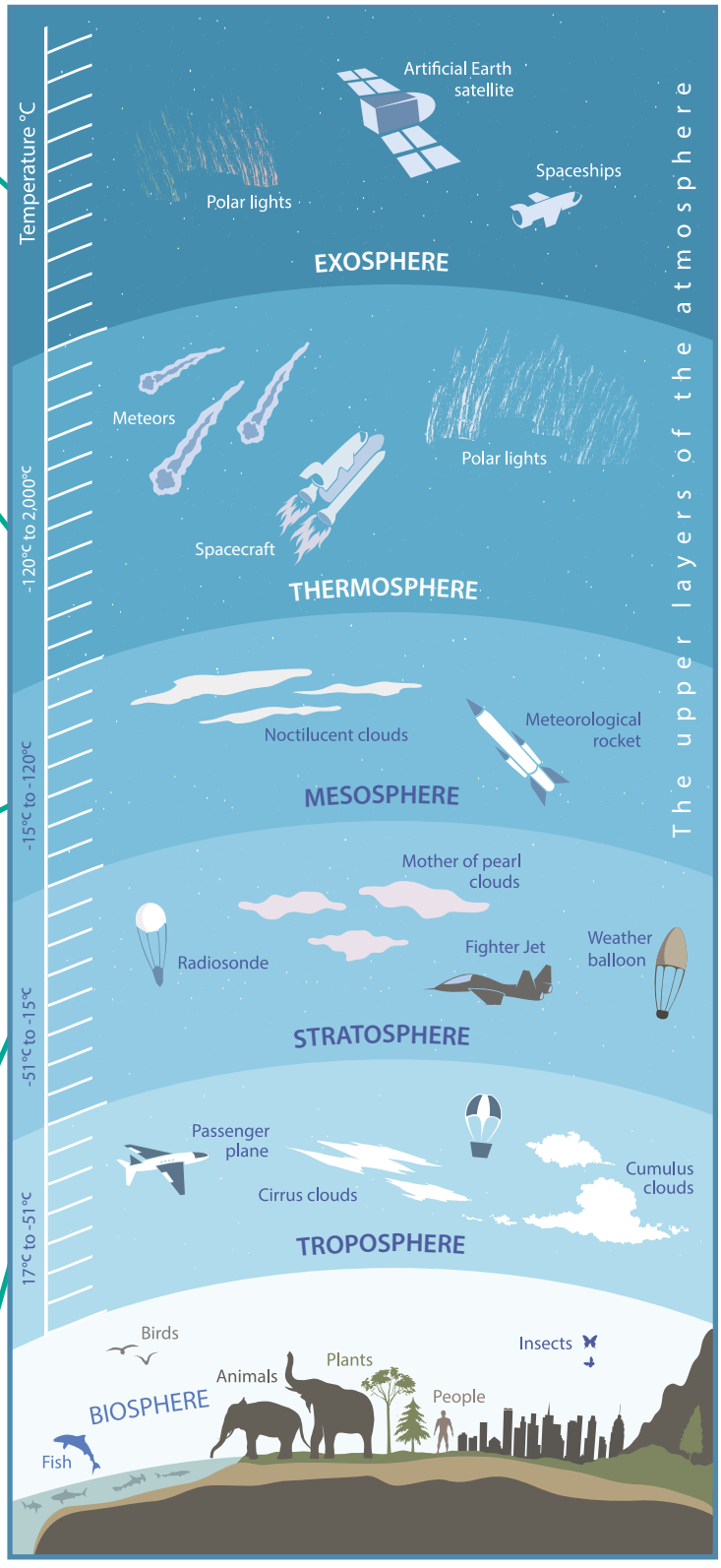
The final layer is called the **exosphere**. This is a thin layer that marks the end of the Earth's atmosphere. It is about 6,200 miles from the Earth's surface.

Beyond the mesosphere is the **thermosphere**. Despite extending to up to 372 miles high, humans can still view the Aurora borealis (northern lights) and the lights from spacecraft from Earth.

Approximately 31 to 53 miles high is the **mesosphere**. This layer is the area of the atmosphere where most meteors and other rock debris burn up before hitting the surface of the Earth.

The **stratosphere** is the next layer. It extends all the way to 31 miles high. Ozone, which protects us against the sun's ultraviolet rays, is found in this layer.

The **troposphere** is found 5 to 9 miles above the surface of the Earth where humans live. This is a dense layer where most weather occurs.



1. The layer below the troposphere is called ■.
2. The biosphere is home to ■ and other animals.
3. There are ■ layers in the Earth's atmosphere.
4. Polar lights can be found in ■ layers of the atmosph
5. In the thermosphere, the temperature becomes ■.
6. The ■ is 31 to 53 miles above the surface of the Earth.
7. Hot air balloons and ■ fly in the troposphere.
8. The ■ layer keeps harmful rays out of the atmosphere.
9. In the mesosphere is usually where ■ break up.
10. The exosphere is ■ than the other layers.
11. Man-made ■ are in the exosphere.
12. The thickest layer is the ■.

Tip

Information from diagrams, charts, and infographics are just as important as what is found in the text.

A	B	C	D	E	F
two	thinner	mesosphere	stratosphere	five	satellites
passenger planes	biosphere	troposphere	humans	hotter	meteors
G	H	I	J	K	L

Objective: Find answers to questions based on information presented in graphics.