

# Environmental Change

## Atmosphere

*The air blanketing Earth. The Atmosphere contains the oxygen you breathe, and it traps just the right amount of the Sun's energy for life to thrive.*



## Think Locally

Say you're on a basketball team. The five of you play together beautifully, moving up and down the court. If one of your teammates gets injured, the team can't perform as well.

The same is true of Earth's five systems. The Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Cryosphere, Geosphere, and Biosphere are a team. What affects one affects the whole team.

Knowing this, go outside and look at the environment around you. **Your yard is important to Earth because your environment is linked to Earth's systems.** Look carefully. Do you see evidence of these dynamic systems at work?

## Hydrosphere



*Oceans, rivers, lakes, and groundwater. The Hydrosphere covers nearly 70% of Earth's surface. No living thing can survive without liquid water.*

## Cryosphere



*Earth's frozen water, found mostly at the poles and very high elevations – like glaciers. The Cryosphere helps regulate Earth's temperature.*

## Geosphere



*Soil and rock. The Geosphere includes the minerals plants absorb, molten rock from a volcano, and the sandy shore of your favorite beach.*

## Biosphere



*All living things and their relationships to each other. From amoebas to anteaters, and seaweed to spruce trees. Even you! We're all part of the Biosphere.*