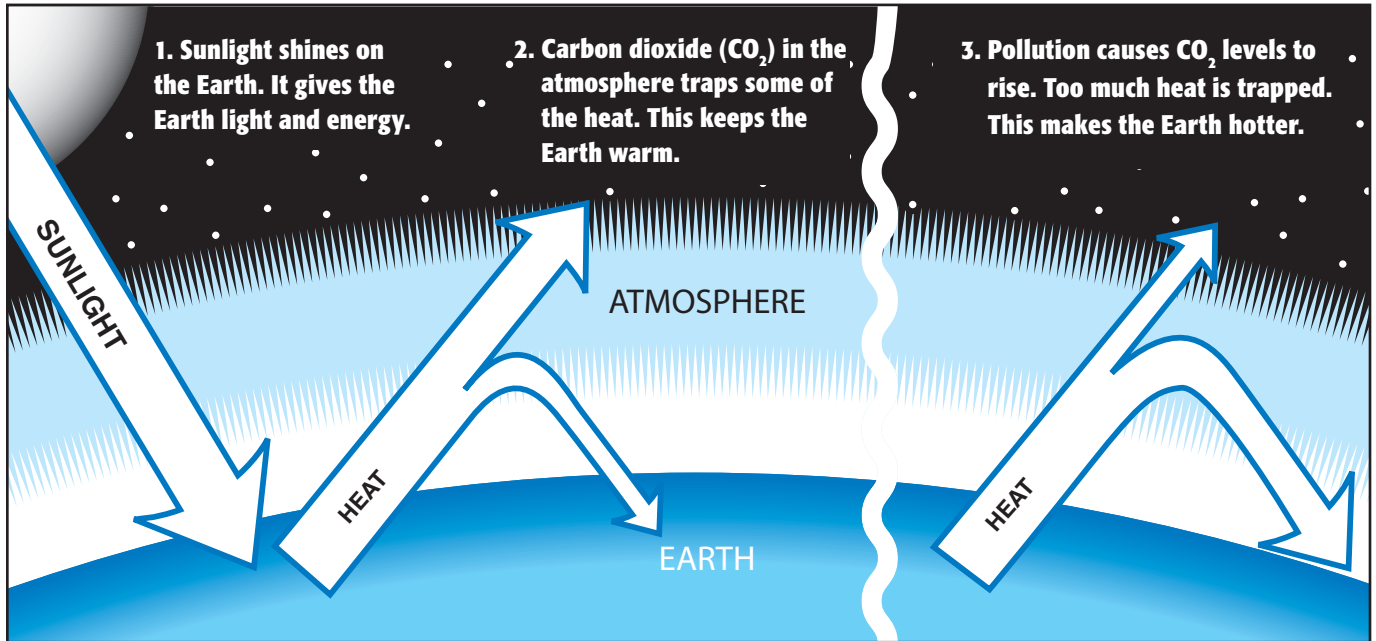


# UNDERSTANDING GLOBAL WARMING

The atmosphere acts like a blanket around the Earth. It is made up mostly of two gases: nitrogen and oxygen. A third gas, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), makes up a small part of the atmosphere. CO<sub>2</sub> and some other gases trap heat from the sun and warm the Earth. But pollution adds too much CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere. It makes the blanket too thick, and makes the Earth hotter than normal.



Use the information above to answer the questions.

1. Name three gases that make up the Earth's atmosphere. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which of the three major gases traps heat? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you think the Earth would be like without CO<sub>2</sub>? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How is the Earth's atmosphere like a blanket? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Pollution is the major source of CO<sub>2</sub>. Cars send CO<sub>2</sub> into the air. Some factories do too. They burn fuels that send CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Burning coal to create electricity also adds CO<sub>2</sub> to the air. What are two things that can be done to send less CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere?  
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