



EPISODE NO. 39

## Atmosphere

**Bill Nye the Science Guy's "Atmosphere" episode is a breath of fresh air.**

The air that surrounds Earth is called the atmosphere. Compared to the size of the Earth, the atmosphere is very, very thin. It's made from gases - mainly nitrogen, oxygen, and water vapor, with a little argon, carbon dioxide, xenon, neon, helium, and sulfur. The atmosphere does a lot for Earth. It blocks ultraviolet light and burns up a lot of meteors. It traps in heat, keeping Earth cozy. Even clouds are formed in the atmosphere - keeping the Earth wet with rain.

Bill Nye's not just breezing by - he's here to stay.

### *Did You Know That?*

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If you could fit the atmosphere on a scale, it would weigh 5.6 million billion tons?

All weather is made in the atmosphere?

Hailstones form in the atmosphere from layers of snow and ice?

### *Books of Science!*

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"The First Book of Air: A Basic Guide to the Earth's Atmosphere"  
by David Knight.  
Published by Franklin Watts, 1961.

"How Did We Find Out About the Atmosphere?"  
by Isaac Asimov.  
Published by Walker and Company, 1985.

### *Fast Facts!*

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The atmosphere is the thin layer of air that surrounds the Earth.  
The atmosphere protects the Earth and keeps it warm and wet.