

# THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

1

The sun emits **solar radiation** towards the Earth

2

Some of the radiation is reflected back into space by the **atmosphere** and by the planet's surface.

3

Most of the solar radiation passes through the atmosphere, then is absorbed by the planet's surface and warms the Earth.

4

At night, the planet's surface cools, releasing **infrared radiation (heat energy)** into the atmosphere. Some of it passes through the atmosphere and goes into space.

5

Some of the infrared radiation is trapped in the atmosphere by **greenhouse gases** and is re-radiated back towards the planet's surface. This keeps the Earth from getting too cold. This is called the **greenhouse effect**.

