

Name _____

What If Earth Didn't Have a Layered Atmosphere?

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Different layers do different jobs. One layer might protect from UV rays, while another burns up meteors. We need them all.
2. People would have to wear heavy sun protection all the time. It could hurt our skin and eyes, and plants might not grow well.
3. They wouldn't have air to breathe or water from rain, and they might freeze or overheat.
4. Harder—spacecraft would have no air to slow down or protect them from solar radiation or debris.

