Atmosphere Webquest

Directions: Please write in complete sentences. Use the following websites to help you answer the following questions:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astronomy/planets/earth/Atmosphere.shtml>

1. How thick is the Earth's atmosphere? The Earth's atmosphere is about 300 miles thick.
2. What are the four main layers of the atmosphere? Troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, and the thermosphere.
3. Which layer is closest to space? The layer that is closest to space is the thermosphere.
4. Which layer is the hottest layer? The thermosphere
5. Which layer is the coldest layer? The mesosphere.
6. What and where are the ionosphere and exosphere? The ionosphere is the lowest layer of the thermosphere and the exosphere is the upper layer of the thermosphere.

Then go to this website: <http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/Atmosphere/overview.html>

1. Why is the atmosphere important? The atmosphere is important because it protects life on earth by shielding it from incoming ultraviolet radiation.
2. What gases are most common in Earth’s atmosphere? Give the percentages. Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Carbon dioxide percentage is 66%, methane percentage is 16%, nitrous oxide 6%, and water vapor percentage is 12%.
3. What is the greenhouse effect (describe how it works)? The greenhouse effect is the energy from the Sun that makes its way to the Earth’s surface and can have trouble finding its way back out to space.
4. What are the main greenhouse gases? The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, and nitrous oxide.