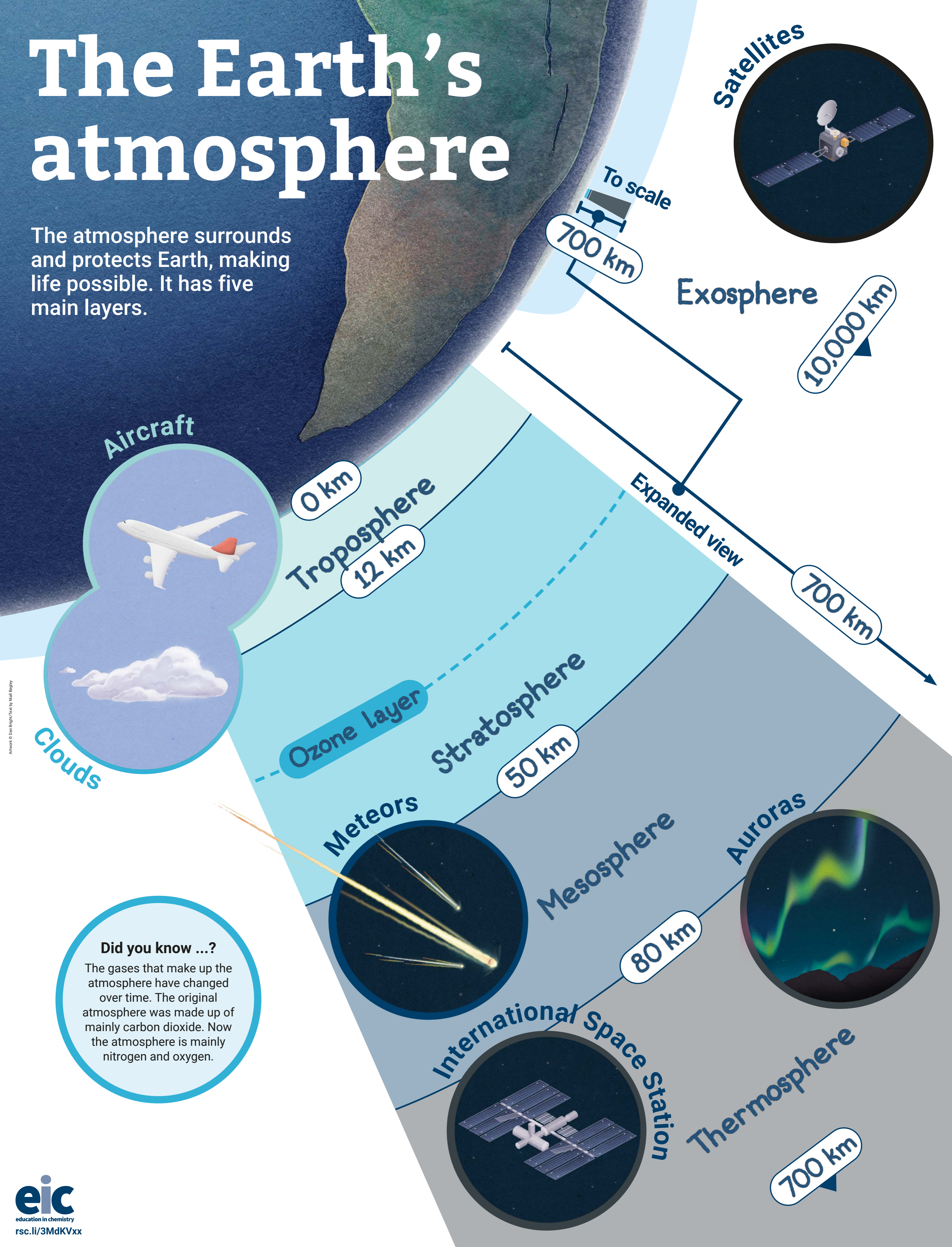


# The Earth's atmosphere

The atmosphere surrounds and protects Earth, making life possible. It has five main layers.



Aircraft



0 km

Troposphere

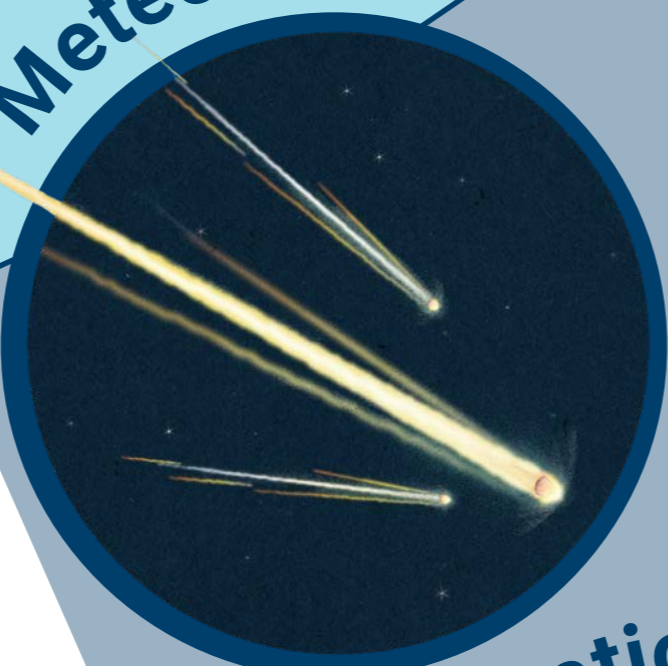
12 km

Ozone layer

Stratosphere

50 km

Meteors



Mesosphere

Auroras



80 km

International Space Station



Thermosphere

700 km

Exosphere

10,000 km

Satellites



To scale

700 km

Expanded view

700 km

Artwork © Dan Bright/Text by Neil Beley

## Did you know ...?

The gases that make up the atmosphere have changed over time. The original atmosphere was made up of mainly carbon dioxide. Now the atmosphere is mainly nitrogen and oxygen.