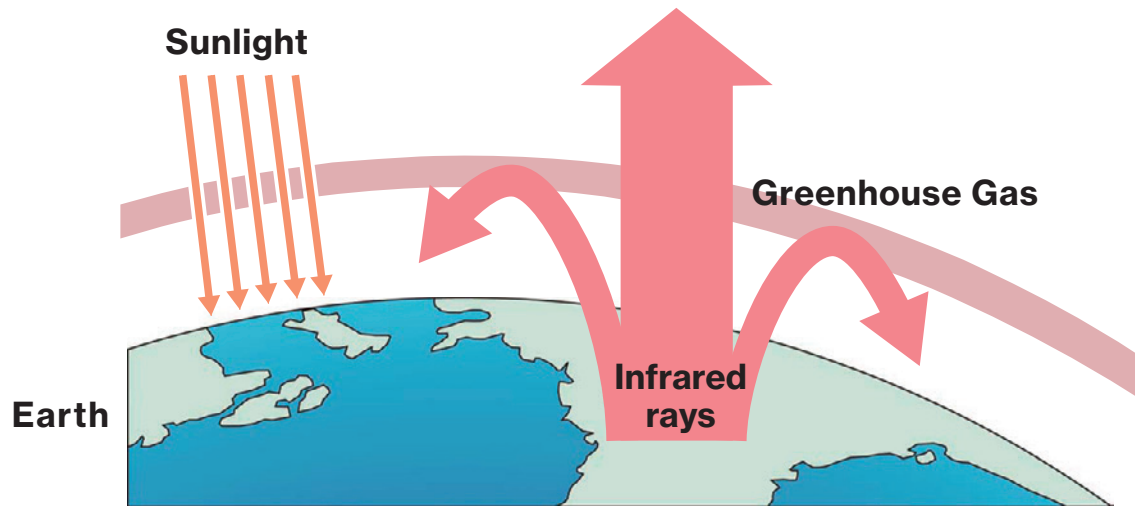
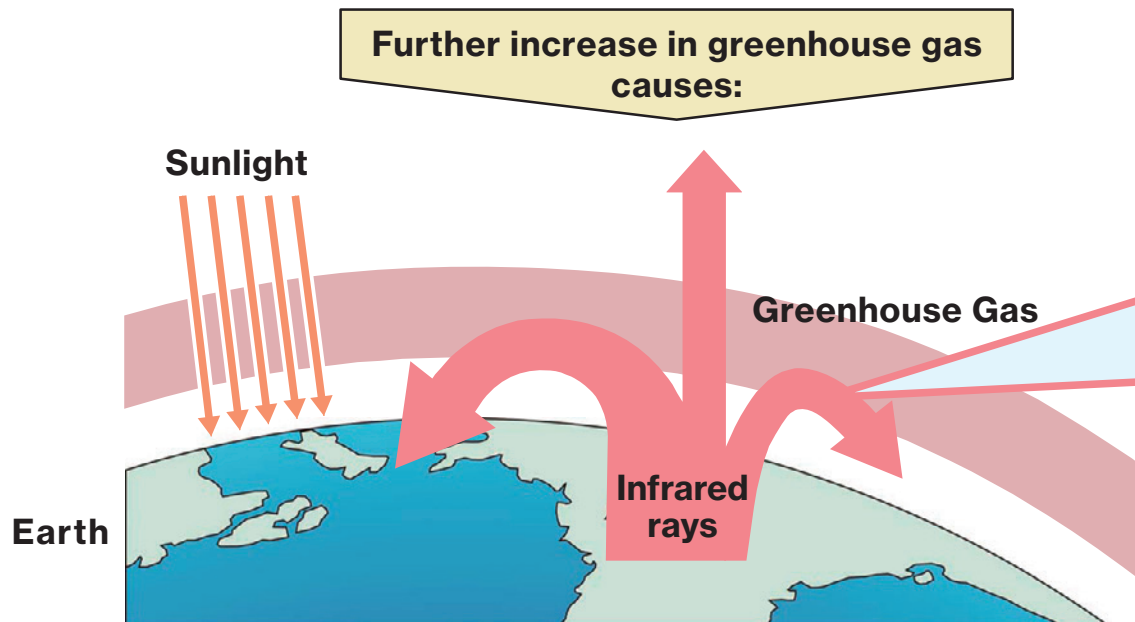


Mechanism of Greenhouse Effect

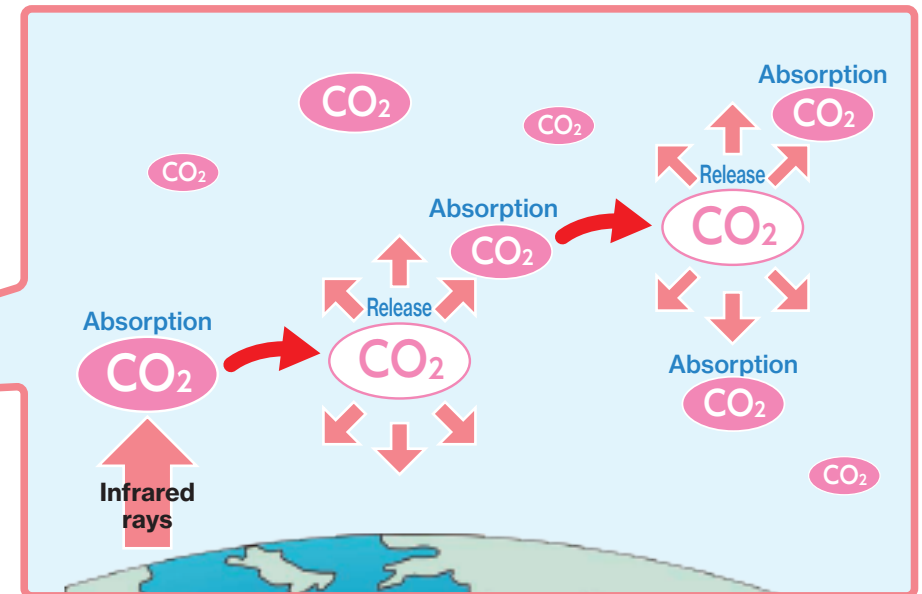


The Earth's atmosphere contains small amounts of "greenhouse gases" such as carbon dioxide, which have a property of absorbing infrared radiation and then releasing it again.

Because of this property, when light from the sun heats up the Earth's surface, infrared radiation travels up and away from the surface and may be absorbed and released by greenhouse gases. A portion of this infrared radiation returns to the surface and heats it up again. As the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere increase, they absorb and release more infrared radiation and make the "greenhouse effect" more severe, raising the air temperature at the Earth's surface.



Example: Process of absorption and release of infrared radiation by carbon dioxide (CO_2)



As carbon dioxide (CO_2) increases, more infrared rays reach the Earth's surface.