



Evidence of Ozone Layer Healing Says Study

What is the ozone layer?

- The ozone layer is a layer of gases around nine miles above the Earth.
- It absorbs harmful UV rays and stops them from reaching the Earth.

A group of scientists say the ozone layer is continuing to heal over Antarctica. In a scientific study, they say it's down to humans taking action.

In 1987, world leaders came together to ban a group of chemicals called CFCs at a meeting in Montreal, Canada.

In the 1970s, scientists first noticed that CFCs were harming the ozone layer. CFCs were often in spray cans, fridges and even air conditioners.

But in May 1985, scientists with the British Antarctic Survey shocked the world. They announced the discovery of a huge hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica.

Countries across the world decided to fix the problem. In 1987, many of them signed the Montreal Protocol. This agreement made sure businesses stopped using CFCs. CFCs are now much rarer.

Thanks to this, the scientists say that damage to the ozone layer has paused. They even say it could be healing.

The ozone layer is about nine miles above the surface of our planet and is crucial for life on Earth. It acts as a shield, absorbing UV rays. Without it, life on Earth would be almost impossible.

The ozone layer is part of the Earth's atmosphere. The atmosphere is a layer of gases that surround us. These gases include oxygen, which we need to breathe.

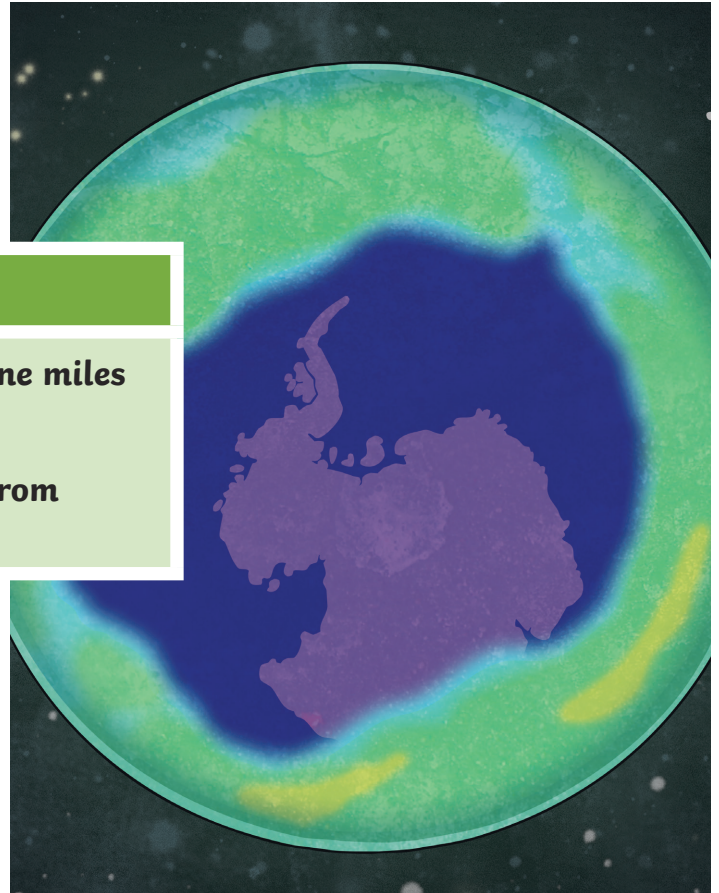


Illustration: The ozone layer.

Over 30 years later, scientists believe the Montreal Protocol is making a big difference. Dr Antara Banerjee, a leading scientist, says there is "growing evidence," to show this.

Scientists, such as Dr Banerjee, believe that that there is more work to do. People need to keep working hard to help the ozone layer to fully recover.

Glossary

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| study | An investigation carried out by scientists over a period of time. |
| CFCs | A mixture of the carbon, hydrogen, chlorine and fluorine that can damage the ozone layer. |
| protocol | A system of rules that people agree to follow. |
| UV rays | Ultraviolet light that comes from the sun. |

Questions

1. '... and is crucial for life on Earth.'

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'crucial'.

- ☐ enough
- ☐ necessary
- ☐ probable
- ☐ special

2. Why do you think the author compares the ozone layer to a shield?

3. In which year did scientists first notice a hole in the ozone layer?

- ☐ 1979
- ☐ 1985
- ☐ 1987
- ☐ 1989

4. Find and copy three products that used to have CFCs in them.

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

5. 'Over 30 years later, scientists believe the Montreal Protocol is making a big difference.'

This suggests that...

- ☐ there's nothing we can do to help the environment.
- ☐ people can make positive changes to the environment.
- ☐ the ozone layer is too complicated for people to understand.
- ☐ we should not think about the environment any more.

6. Write a summary of the story in 20 words or fewer.

Answers

1. '... and is crucial for life on Earth.'

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'crucial'.

- ☐ enough
- ☒ **necessary**
- ☐ probable
- ☐ special

2. Why do you think the author compares the ozone layer to a shield?

Accept any answer that refers to the story, e.g. I think the author compares the ozone layer because shield used to protect soldiers and the ozone layer protects life on Earth from harmful UV rays.

3. In which year did scientists first notice a hole in the ozone layer?

- ☐ 1979
- ☒ **1985**
- ☐ 1987
- ☐ 1989

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5. 'Over 30 years later, scientists believe the Montreal Protocol is making a big difference.'

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- ☐ the ozone layer is too complicated for people to understand.
- ☐ we should not think about the environment any more.

6. Write a summary of the story in 20 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable summary that is 20 words or fewer, e.g. A group of scientists say the ozone layer is continuing to heal over Antarctica because of the Montreal Protocol.