

Skills Worksheet

Graphing Skills

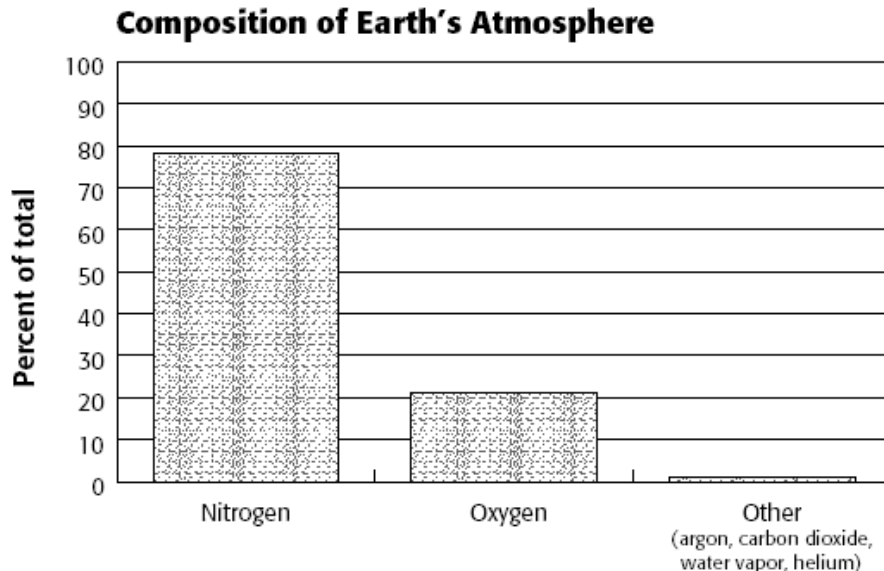
Bar Graphs

Bar graphs are useful tools for use in comparing data values. For example, you might compare the temperature differences in various layers of the atmosphere. Or, you might compare the percentages of gases that make up Earth's atmosphere. Take a look at the following chart.

COMPOSITION OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE

Gases	Percent of total
Nitrogen	78
Oxygen	21
Other (argon, carbon dioxide, water vapor, helium)	1

To create a bar graph from the data in this table, you would label three bar positions on the x -axis with the names of the gases. On the y -axis you would include the percent range from 0 to 100 and label this axis "Percent of total." Finally, you would draw the bars to represent the data. Your bar graph would look like the following sample.



PRACTICE

Answer the following questions based on the information in the graph above.

- Which gas has the highest concentration in Earth's atmosphere? What percent of the atmosphere is it?

