

Astronomy Assessment
Lesson: Earth's Atmosphere

Name: _____
Due Date: _____

Read the attached article *Getting into the Thick of Thin Air* by Colin Nickerson, then answer the following questions about the atmosphere.

(1) Why would the air in Denver, CO (Elevation: 5, 281 feet) allow for longer hits than the air in Boston, MA (Elevation: 141 feet)?

(2) Why is Denver such a difficult place to pitch a baseball?

(3) Which layers of Earth's atmosphere are hardest to get through for a rocket? Explain your answer.

(4) If astronauts were to take a space walk and remove one of the gloves from their space suit, would the air feel warm or cold to them? Why?

(5) Most athletes train in high altitudes like Colorado Springs, CO. How would this help their performance at a meet in, say, Boston?
