

**TOPIC # 6**  
**The RADIATION LAWS**  
**PART 2**

**Class Notes p 31**

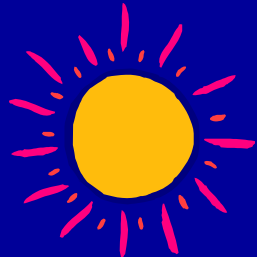
# OBJECTIVES:

To understand more  
essentials about

**Solar radiation**

&

**Terrestrial radiation**



based on the principles of  
the last 2 “Radiation Laws.”



# THE RADIATION LAWS

## Review of Laws # 2 – 4

Fill in Top of p 31

**REVIEW: Match each equation with the correct phrase below & fill in the name of the LAW:**

(a)  $E = \sigma T^4$       (b)  $E = h c / \lambda$       (c)  $\lambda_m = a / T$

“The hotter the body, the shorter the wavelength”  
The cooler the body, the longer the wavelength”

“The hotter the body, the (much) greater the amount of energy flux or radiation”

“SHORTER wavelengths have HIGHER intensity radiation than LONGER wavelengths”

## ANSWERS!

(c)  $\lambda_m = a / T$

Wien's Law

“The hotter the body, the shorter the wavelength”  
The cooler the body, the longer the wavelength”

(a)  $E = \sigma T^4$

Stefan-Boltzmann Law

“The hotter the body, the (much) greater the amount of energy flux or radiation”

(b)  $E = h c / \lambda$

Planck Function

“SHORTER wavelengths have HIGHER intensity radiation than LONGER wavelengths”

## On to the last two laws . . . .

These last two laws (#5 and #6) will not  
be on the Thursday's test . . .

Laws # 1-4 will

But TODAY'S CLASS will definitely help  
you to do well on the Test if you pay  
attention!

# LAW #5: Radiation & distance

## -- the inverse-square law

The inverse square law describes:

how solar **FLUX** of **ENERGY**  
decreases  
with **increasing DISTANCE**  
from the source of  
the radiation flux  
i.e., the **Sun**

# **INVERSE SQUARE LAW =**

The amount of radiation passing through a particular unit area is:

**INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL**

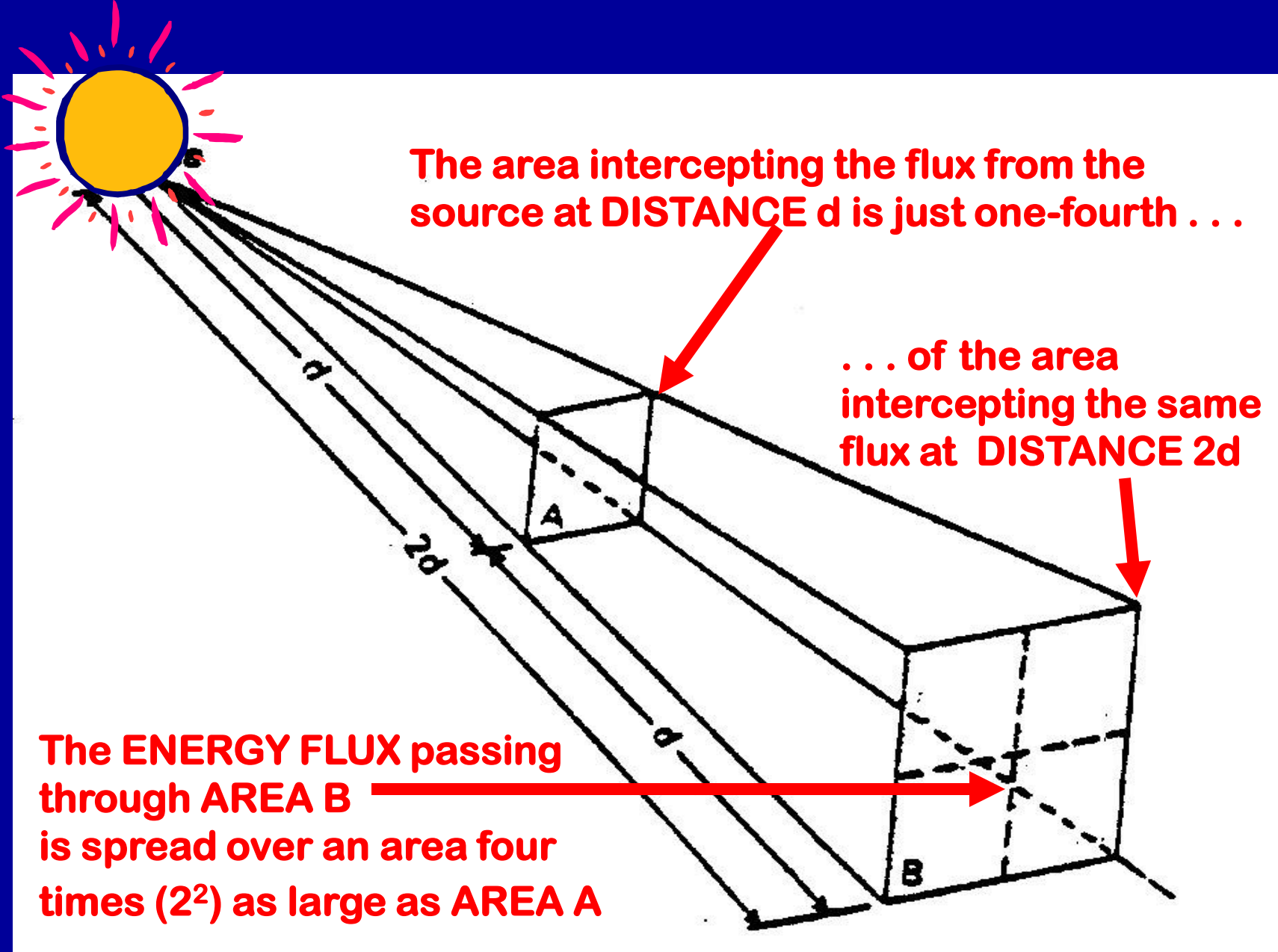
to the

**SQUARE** of the distance

of that unit area from the source

$$(1/d^2)$$





# Inverse-Square Law (easy way):

If we double the distance from the source to the interception point, the intensity of the radiation decreases by a factor of

$$(1/2)^2 = 1/4$$

OR

If we triple the distance from the source to the interception point, the intensity decreases by a factor of

$$(1/3)^2 = 1/9 \quad \dots \text{etc, etc.}$$



**OR**

if we reduce the distance from the source to the interception point by a factor of 2 or 3, the intensity of the radiation increases by a factor of

$$2^2 = 4$$

or

$$3^2 = 9$$

... etc, etc.



# Why is this concept important?

Because it means that relatively  
SMALL changes in distance from  
the source of energy  
(e.g., the Sun)

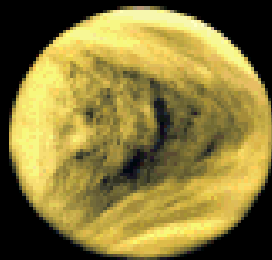
can result in LARGE changes in the  
amount of energy received  
by a planet's surface.



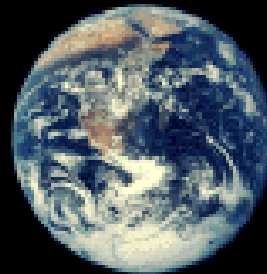
# GOLDILOCKS & THE 3 PLANETS



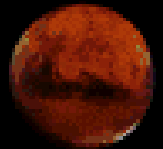
 To  
Sun



**VENUS**



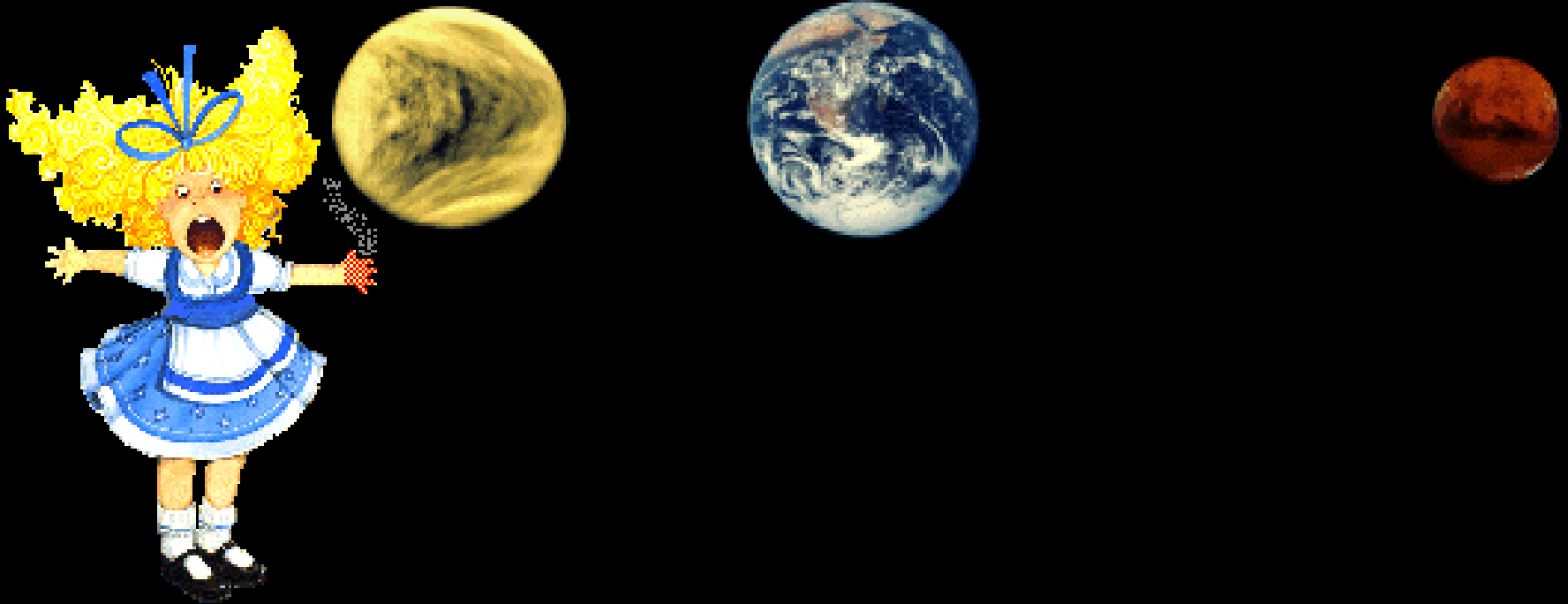
**EARTH**



**MARS**



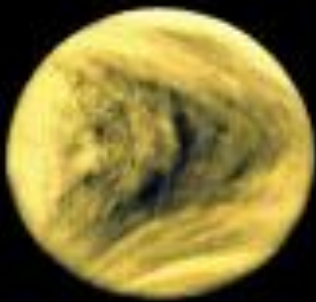
# GOLDILOCKS & THE 3 PLANETS



**Yikes! Venus is too HOT!**



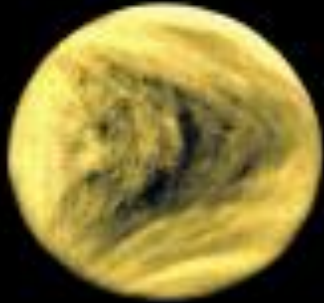
# GOLDILOCKS & THE 3 PLANETS



**Brrrrrrrrr, Mars is too COLD!!**



# GOLDBLOCKS & THE 3 PLANETS

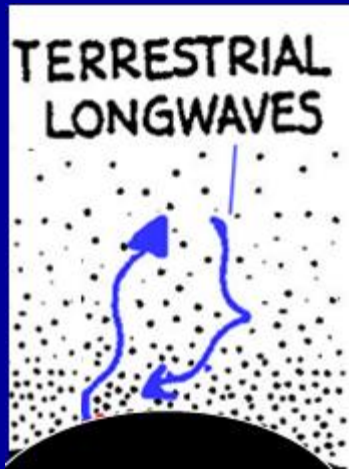


Ahhhh! Earth  
is **JUST RIGHT!**

But is being at “just the right distance”  
the primary determinant of  
Earth’s temperature?







The **absorption** and re-radiation of Infrared radiation by **GH Gases** . . .



. . . is what keeps the Earth in the **"just right" temperature range** for water to be present in all 3 phases . . .  
. . . and just right for US too!



**Without the "Greenhouse Effect"**  
the Earth would be TOO COLD  
**for life as we know it!**



**Thanks,  
Greenhouse  
Effect!**



**Q1 The inverse-square law – when applied to the distance between a planet and the Sun -- IS exactly what determines that planet's temperature.**  
**YES or NO?**

1. Yes, this is what the **Goldilock's Effect** is illustrating.
2. No, how much solar energy the planet **reflects back** must also be taken into account
3. No, whether or not the planet has a **greenhouse effect** must also be taken into account.

**Q1 The inverse-square law – when applied to the distance between a planet and the Sun -- IS exactly what determines that planet's temperature.**

**YES or NO?**

1. Yes, this is what the **Goldilock's Effect** is illustrating.
2. No, how much solar energy the planet **reflects back** must also be taken into account
3. No, whether or not the planet has a **greenhouse effect** must also be taken into account.

**Both 2 & 3  
are correct!**

**Re-Read SGC  
p 43 (look for  
the 2nd green  
Pushpin note!)**



# THE LAST LAW!

## Law #6

Electromagnetic energy does not **NEED** matter to be transferred, but when it **DOES react with matter**, it can be:

- **ABSORBED (and EMITTED)**
- **TRANSMITTED**
- **SCATTERED**, or
- **REFLECTED . . .**  
*. . . . through -- or by -- the matter*

More about **the other 2 processes** in upcoming lectures . . . .

# LAW #6: Selective emission and absorption

*Part (a) of the law:*

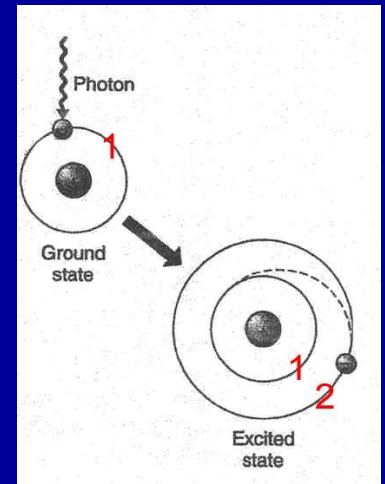
Some substances emit and absorb radiation at **certain wavelengths only.**

This is mainly true of gases.

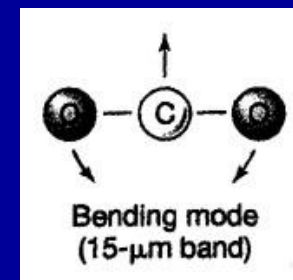
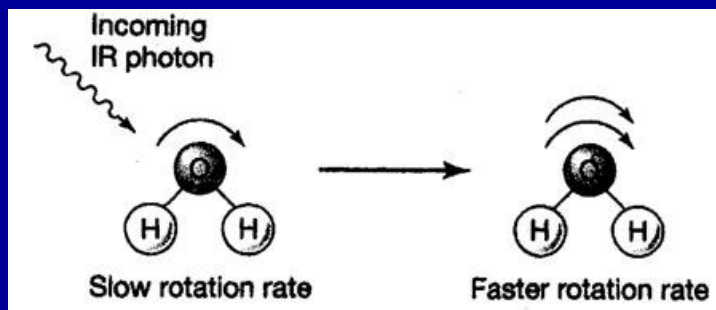
Why?

# Recall **QUANTUM** BEHAVIOR!

**ELECTRON** energy states allow absorption of photons/wavelengths of **only a specified frequency**



Different **GAS MOLECULES** allow absorption of photons/waves of only specified frequencies (and wavelengths) because of how the gas molecules vibrate, bend, and rotate





*Part (b) of the law:*

**Some substances (like gases) absorb only radiation of wavelengths they can emit.**

*Two implications of Part (b):*



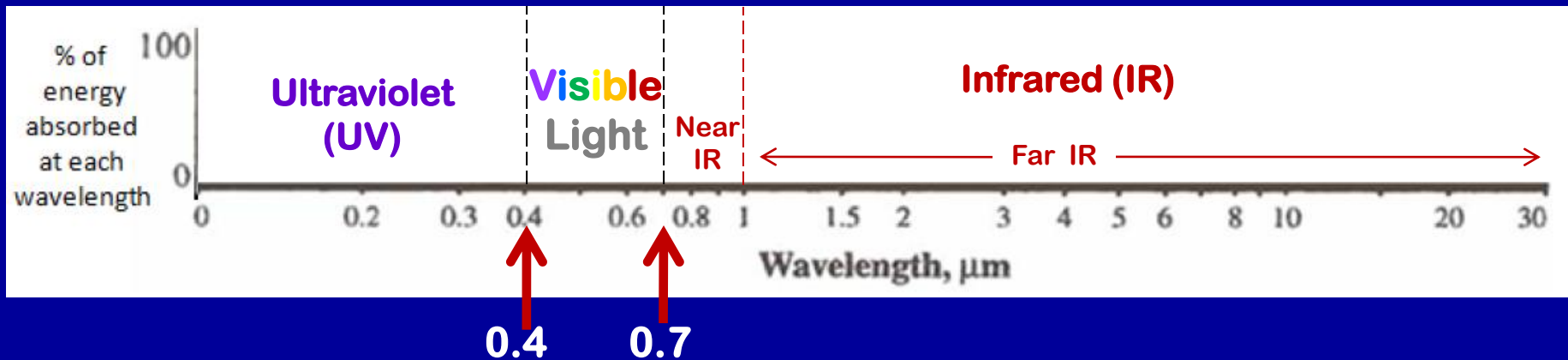
(1) The **frequency & wavelength** of energy **absorbed** by a particular gas molecule **will be the same as** the frequency & wavelength with which it is **emitted**.

“ IR absorbed by the gas → IR emitted by the gas ”

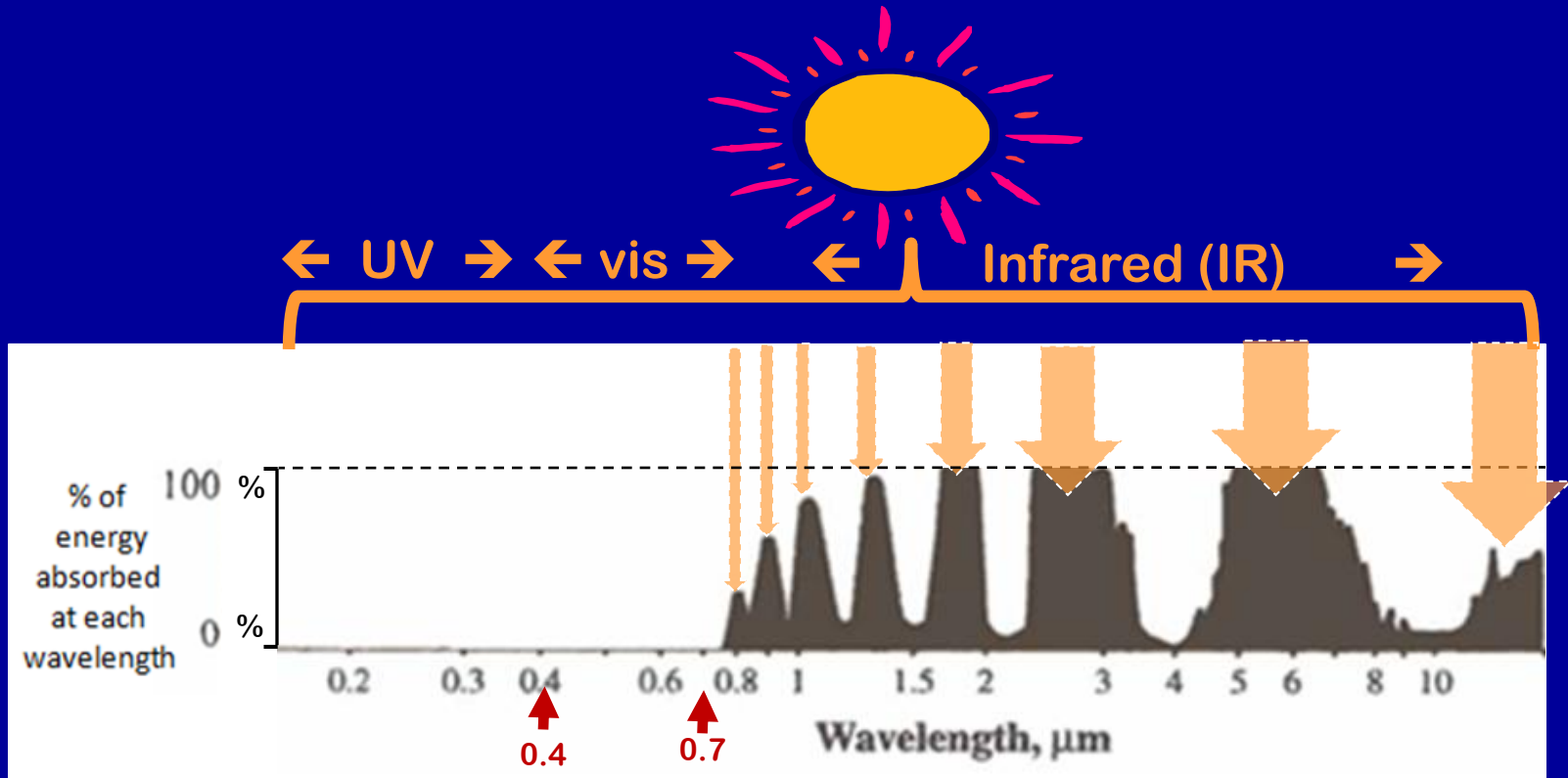
(2) Wavelengths of energy that are **NOT absorbed** (or only partially absorbed) by a gas molecule, **get transmitted** right through the **ATMOSPHERE!** “ IR **NOT** absorbed = IR transmitted ”

# QUICK SPECTRUM REVIEW:

What are the key parts of the spectrum?



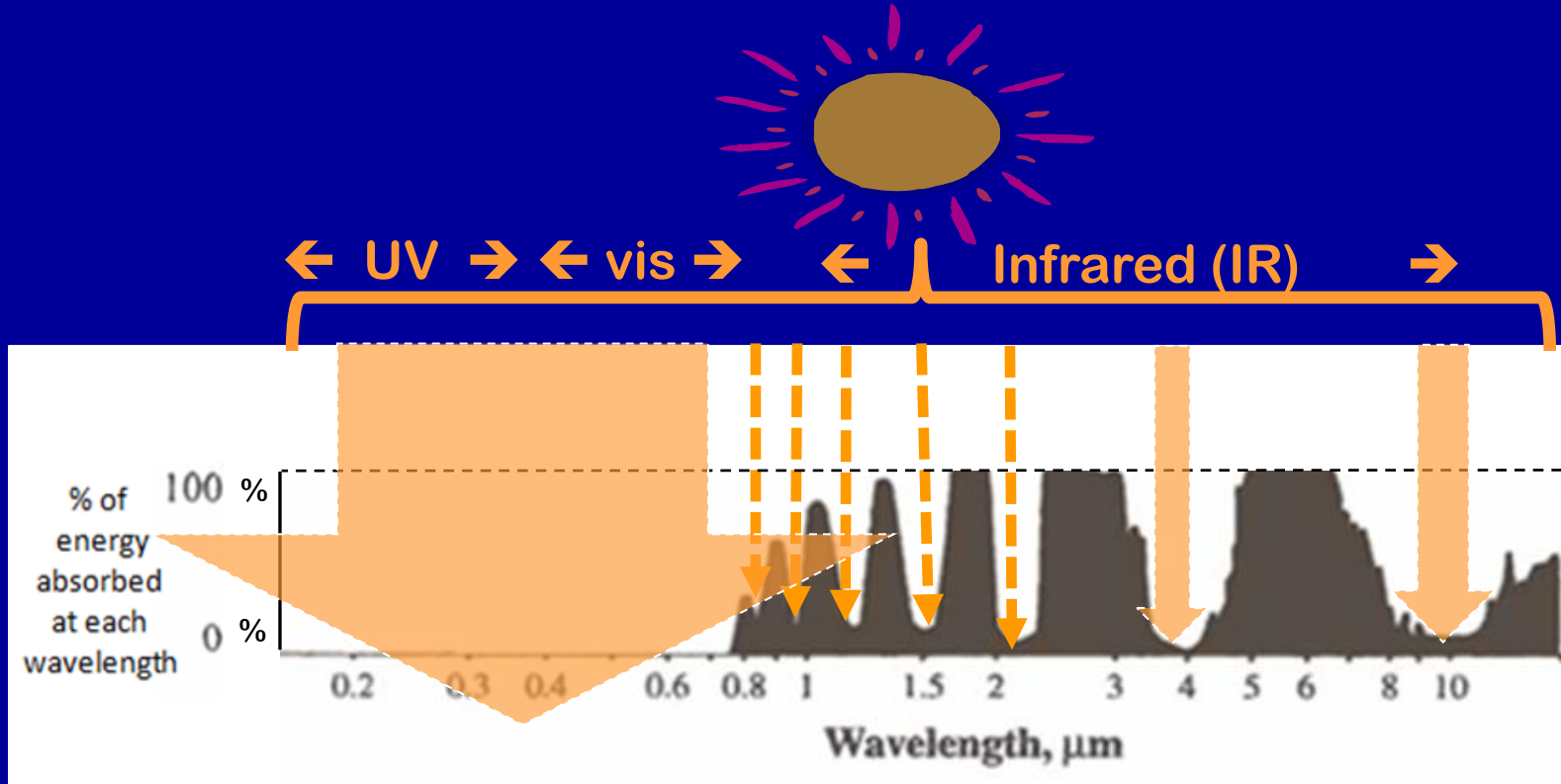
The pattern of electromagnetic wavelengths that are **absorbed (& emitted)** by a particular gas molecule . . . is called the gas's **Absorption Spectrum** or **ABSORPTION CURVE**



Radiation is **ABSORBED** (or partially **ABSORBED**) at these wavelengths by this particular gas!



The “open areas” (0 % or low values) on the **Absorption Curve** represent electromagnetic wavelengths that are **NOT absorbed** or only partially absorbed by a particular gas molecule . .



Radiation is **TRANSMITTED** through the atmosphere and **very little is absorbed** at these wavelengths by this particular gas!

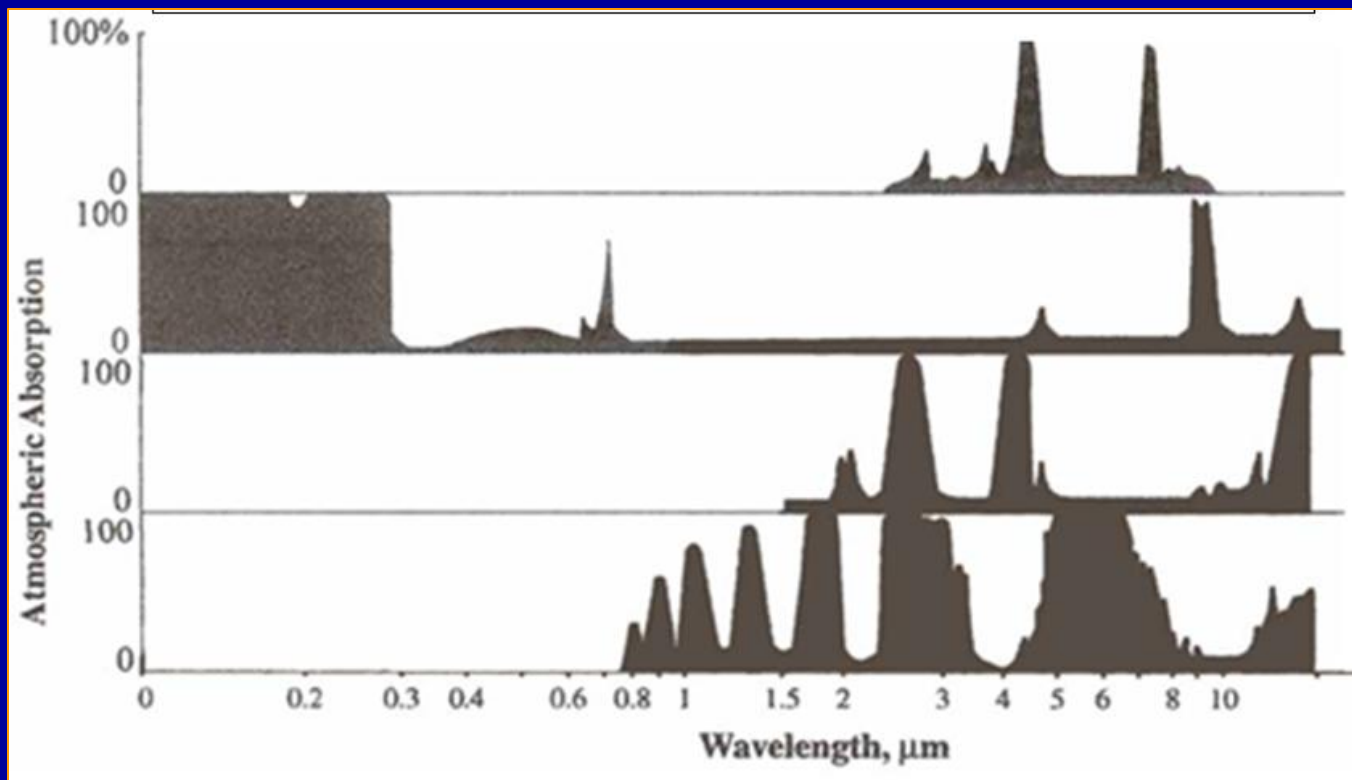


The pattern of electromagnetic wavelengths that are **absorbed** & **emitted** by a particular gas molecule . . . is called the gas's

## **Absorption Spectrum** or **ABSORPTION CURVE**

**4 different gases:**

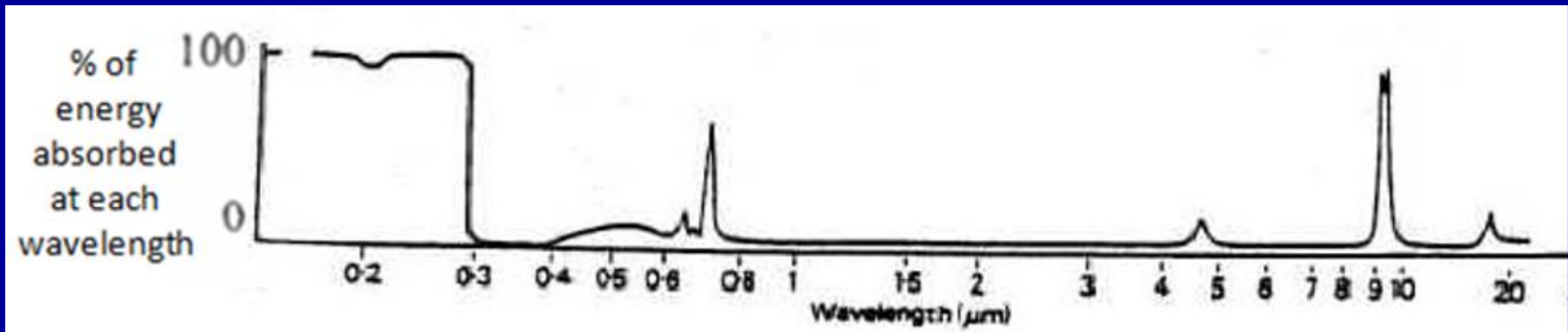
energy  
absorbed  
at each  
wavelength



Each row is the **Absorption Curve** for a different atmospheric gas molecule!



# An **absorption curve**: another view (without shading under the curve)



# ABSORPTION CURVES

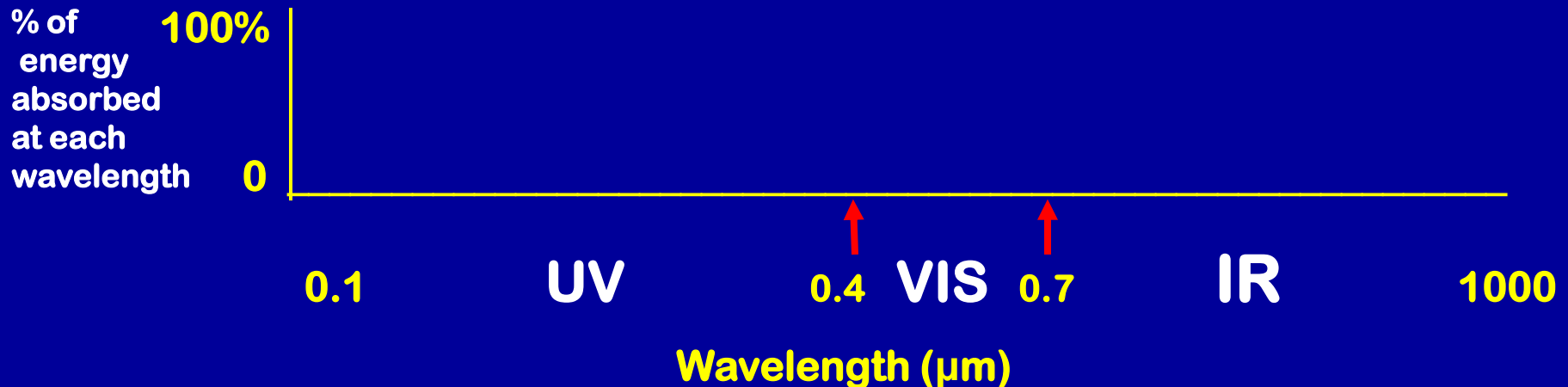
SKETCH THE AXES IN

(on the bottom of p 31 or in your own notes)



HORIZONTAL AXIS: **wavelengths in the spectrum**

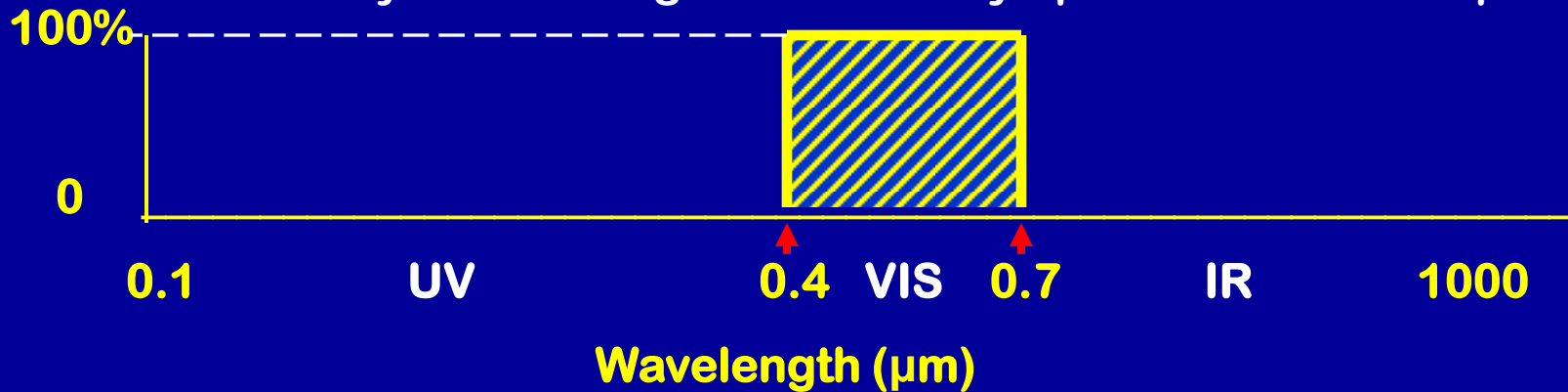
VERTICAL AXIS: **% of energy** at a given wavelength  
that is **absorbed**



What would a curve for a hypothetical gas that absorbs **ALL VISIBLE LIGHT** but **ZERO UV** or **IR**

LOOK LIKE ??

Be sure your sketch goes all the way up to 100% for this question!



SKETCH IT IN . . . .





**And now . . . .**

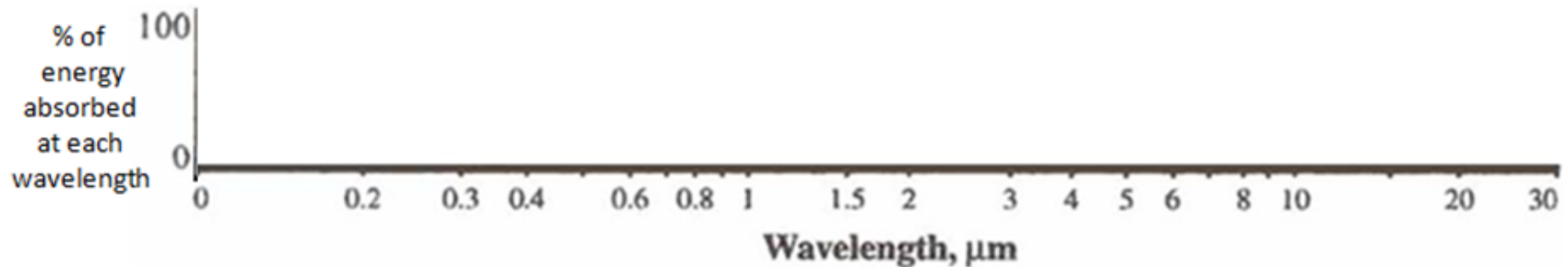
# **GROUP ASSIGNMENT G-1**

**Understanding Radiation,  
Absorption & Wavelengths  
of the  
Electromagnetic Spectrum**

**WORTH 10 pts**

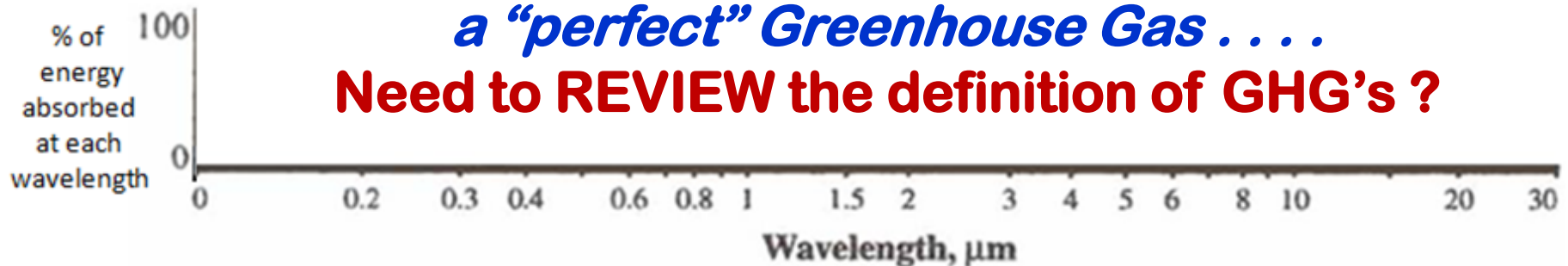
# Q1. All UV but zero vis and zero IR?

Q1. Draw an absorption curve for a hypothetical gas that can absorb ALL UV radiation but zero visible light and IR radiation. Then shade in the area under your curve in this and subsequent questions.



# Q2. All IR but zero vis and zero UV?

Q2. Draw an absorption curve for a “perfect” greenhouse gas that absorbs ALL IR radiation, but no visible or UV:



Review for Q2:

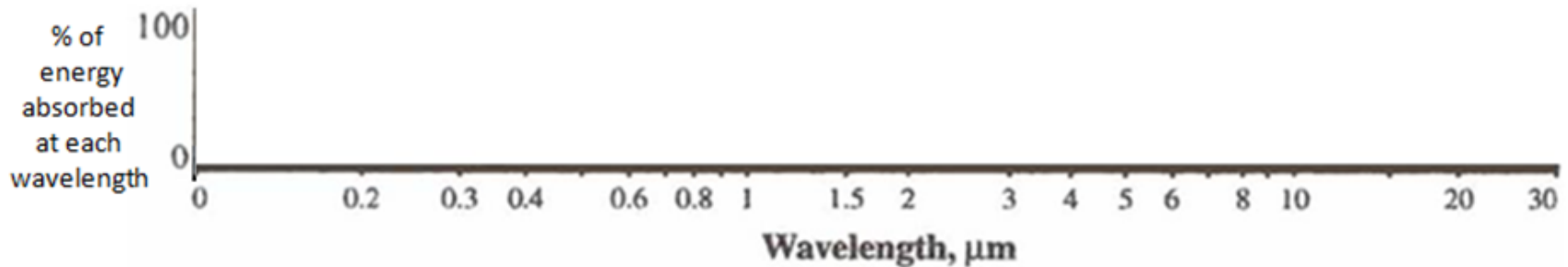
## DEFINITION OF GREENHOUSE GASES

*(def):* Greenhouse gases are gases which both absorb and emit electromagnetic radiation in the infrared (IR) part of the spectrum.



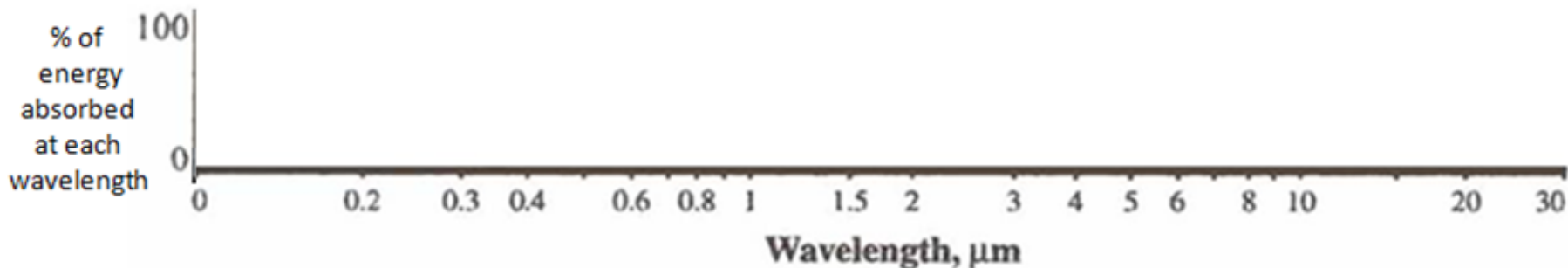
### Q3. All UV & IR absorbed but VIS transmitted?

Q3. Draw an absorption curve for a hypothetical gas that absorbs ALL UV radiation and ALL IR radiation, but leaves a "WINDOW" open for visible light, allowing the visible light wavelengths to pass through the gas unimpeded without being absorbed:



### Q4. All IR absorbed in specific wavelength bands?

Q4. Draw an absorption curve for a hypothetical gas that can absorb 100% of the IR radiation in these three wavelength bands: band from 2 to 2.5 μm band from 3 to 4 μm band from 13 to 20 μm



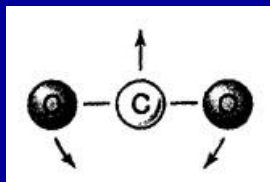
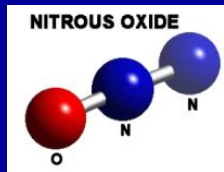
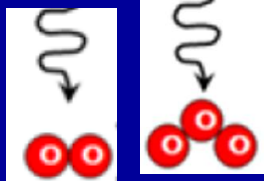
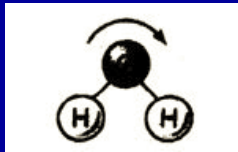
**Q5. Is the hypothetical gas in Q4 likely to be a GREENHOUSE GAS?**

**YES      NO      *(circle one)***

**Briefly explain WHY you answered YES or NO: *(in a few sentences)***

***(discuss in your group first!)***

# Q6. (skip to p 34)



Gas	Here are the specific wavelengths each gas absorbs!	Primary absorption wavelengths (in micrometers)
-----	---	---

Water vapor (H <sub>2</sub> O)	0.8	4 to 7
	1	9 to 10
	1.5	11 to 20
	2 to 3.5	

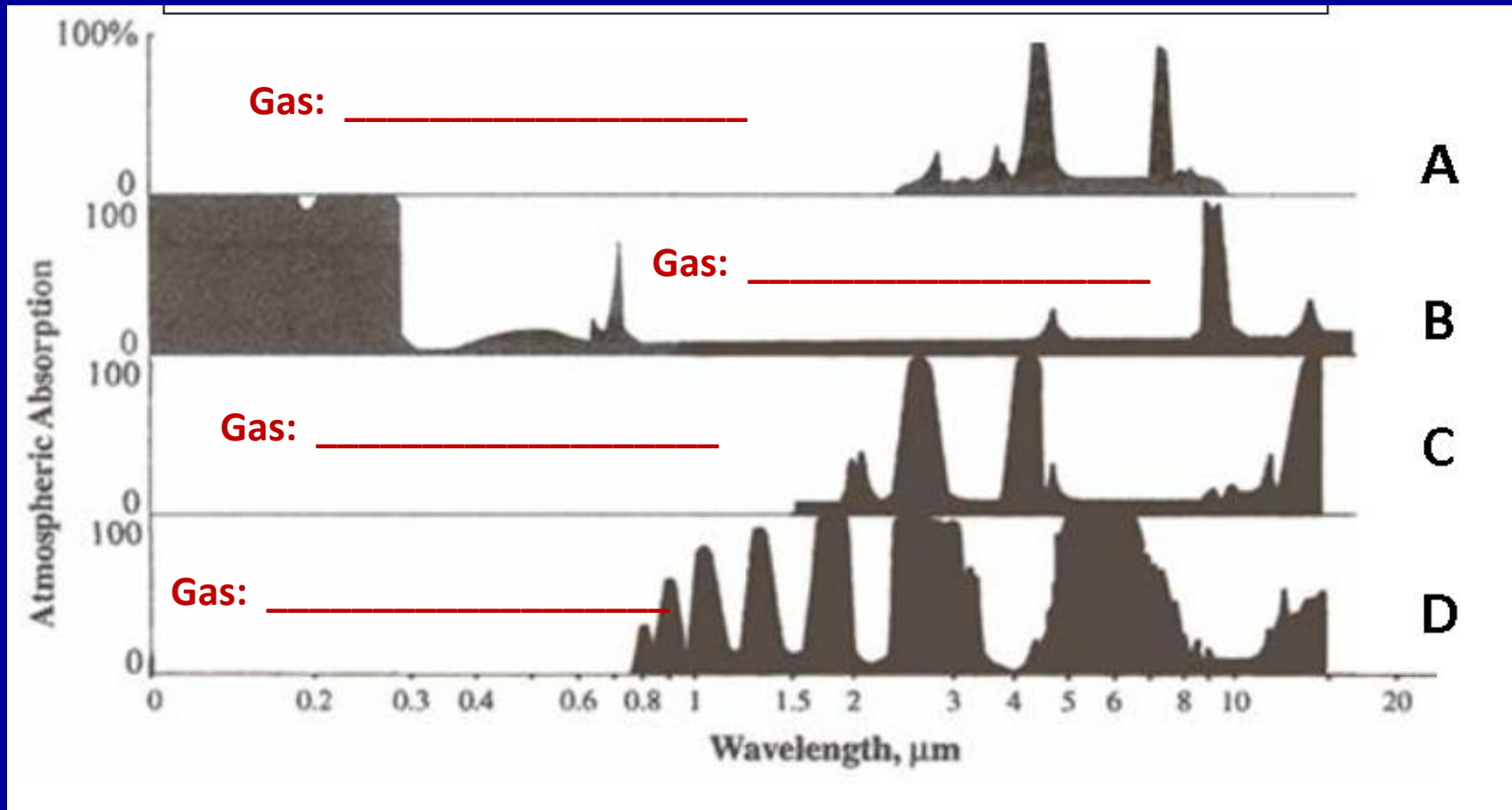
Molecular oxygen (O <sub>2</sub> ) and Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	0.0001 to 0.280	
	8.5 to 10	

Nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)	4 to 5	
	7 to 7.5	

Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	2 to 2.5	
	3 to 4	
	13 to 20	

# Match the GAS with its Absorption Curve:

CHOICES:  $\text{CO}_2$   $\text{H}_2\text{O}$   $\text{O}_2 + \text{O}_3$   $\text{N}_2\text{O}$



# Solar vs. Terrestrial Radiation

## Class Concepts Self Test

For Q7 – Q11  
work individually or in  
pairs on the last page  
(same as p 35 in CLASS NOTES)

.... then compare  
answers with the rest of  
the Group and record  
the group's consensus  
answers on the G-1 form.

Will be a good review of Test #1

**SOLAR vs TERRESTRIAL RADIATION CLASS CONCEPTS SELF TEST**

**KEY:**  
= represents Solar shortwave (SW) radiation  
= represents Terrestrial longwave (LW) (infrared IR radiation)  
= represents the atmosphere and its gases (which can absorb and emit certain kinds of radiation)

**Q1.** Which diagram above shows SW radiation being reflected back to space?  
Diagram A    Diagram B    Diagram C    None of them

**Q2.** Diagram A shows LW radiation "bouncing off" the gases in the atmosphere (i.e. being reflected back to the surface by the gases without being absorbed by them.) Is this an accurate depiction of how the Greenhouse Effect works?    Yes    No    Partly

**Q3.** Diagram B shows LW radiation being absorbed and then emitted by the gases in the atmosphere. Is this an accurate depiction of how the Greenhouse Effect works?    Yes    No    Partly

**Q4.** Diagram C shows LW radiation going right through the atmosphere out to space. Is this an accurate depiction of how the Greenhouse Effect works?    Yes    No    Partly

**Q5.** On the diagram that you think best depicts the processes involved in the GREENHOUSE EFFECT, circle the specific part of the diagram that represents the Greenhouse Effect.

**Q6.** Below is a modified version of the cartoon. It is more complete and more accurate, but there are still some important processes not being represented. Can you think of what they might be?

**Modified Cartoon of Solar (SW) & Terrestrial (LW / IR) wavelengths of radiation:**

① Some incoming SW radiation from the SUN goes right through the atmosphere to Earth (w/o being absorbed)

② The Earth absorbs SW that reaches the surface

③ Some IR radiation is emitted from the Earth's surface right out to space through "IR window"

④ Some IR radiation is absorbed by GH gases in the atmosphere and emitted back to Earth

⑤ Some IR radiation is absorbed by GH gases in the atmosphere, but is emitted out to space (not back to Earth)

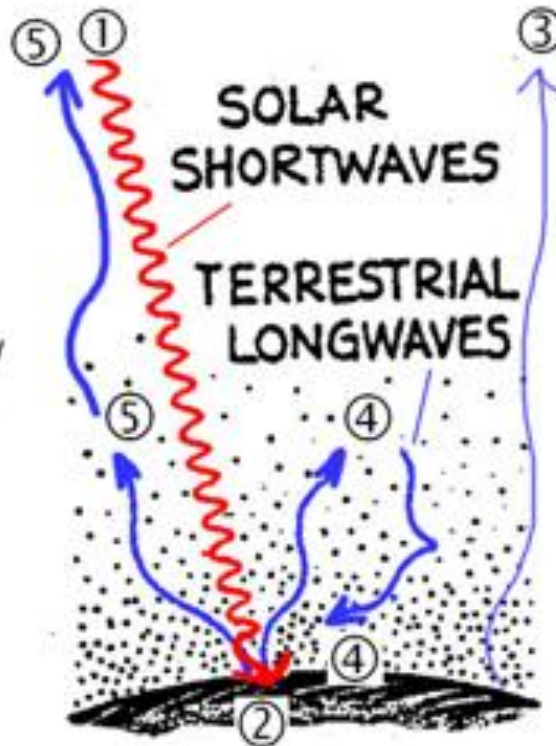


## Modified Cartoon of Solar (SW) & Terrestrial (LW / IR) wavelengths of radiation:

① Some Incoming SW radiation from the SUN goes right through the atmosphere to Earth (w/o being absorbed)

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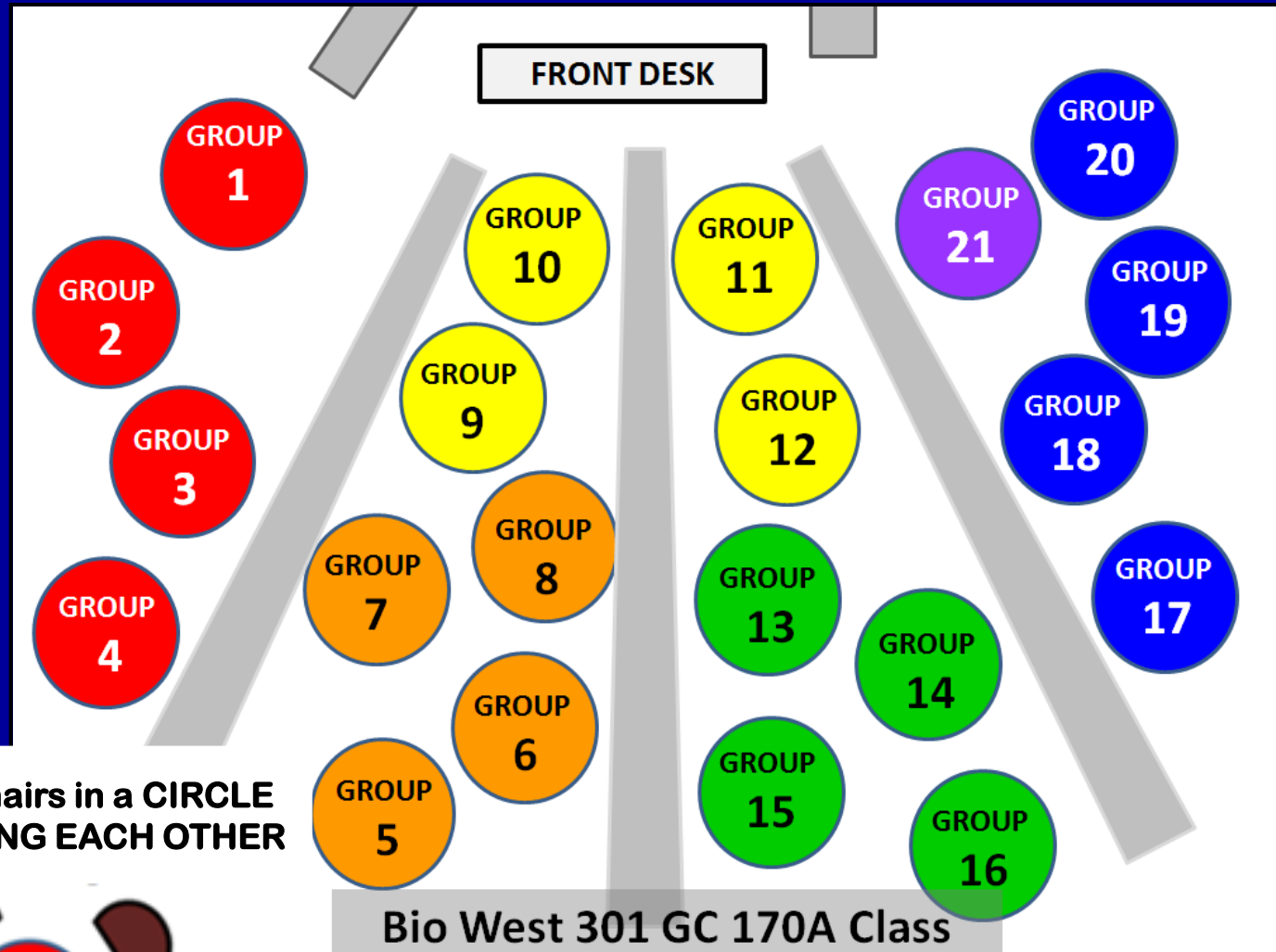


④ Some IR radiation is absorbed by GH gases in the atmosphere and emitted back to Earth

⑤ Some IR radiation is absorbed by GH gases in the atmosphere, but is emitted out to space (not back to Earth)

**THINKING MORE DEEPLY:** This diagram is more complete and more accurate than the one at the top of the page, but there are still some important processes not being represented. Can you think of what they might be?

**You should  
be sitting  
in your  
assigned  
GROUP  
location:**



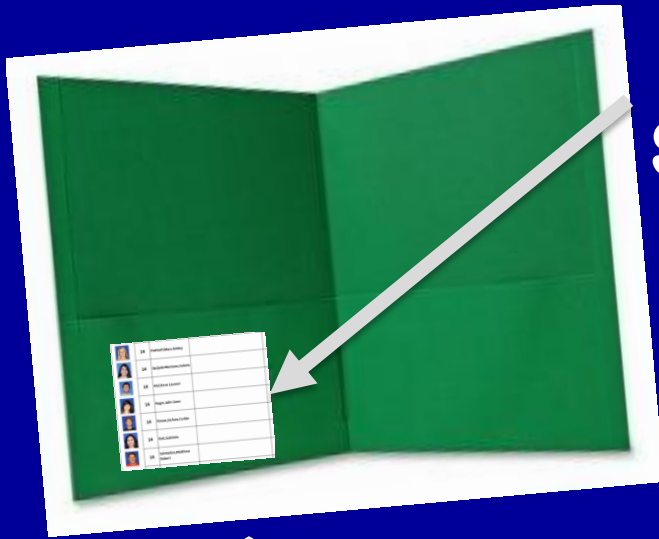
**Arrange your chairs in a CIRCLE  
so you are FACING EACH OTHER**



**FIRST THING YOU SHOULD  
DO IS BE SURE YOU ARE  
SITTING IN THE RIGHT  
GROUP!**

**and then  
SIGN IN . . . . .**

When you get  
your **GROUP  
FOLDER** . . .



. . . Sign in with your  
**SIGNATURE** next to your  
name & photo on the  
**GROUP LIST**  
inside the folder



*Add your  
Nickname  
if you like!*

Then sign today's  
**Group Assignment  
Form:**

# G-1 Group Assignment Form

Enter your **GROUP #** → GROUP #

Each Group Participant's SIGNATURE:

PRINT NAME legibly next to the signature:

GROUP LEADER: Stanley Student

Stan Student

Stella Student

STELLA STUDENT



Your  
SIGNATURE

Your name  
PRINTED

**TODAY'S GROUP LEADER** = Student whose last name is 1<sup>st</sup> in the ALPHABET on ther Group List

LEADER passes the GROUP FORM around so each student **SIGNS IT & PRINTS HIS /HER NAME**

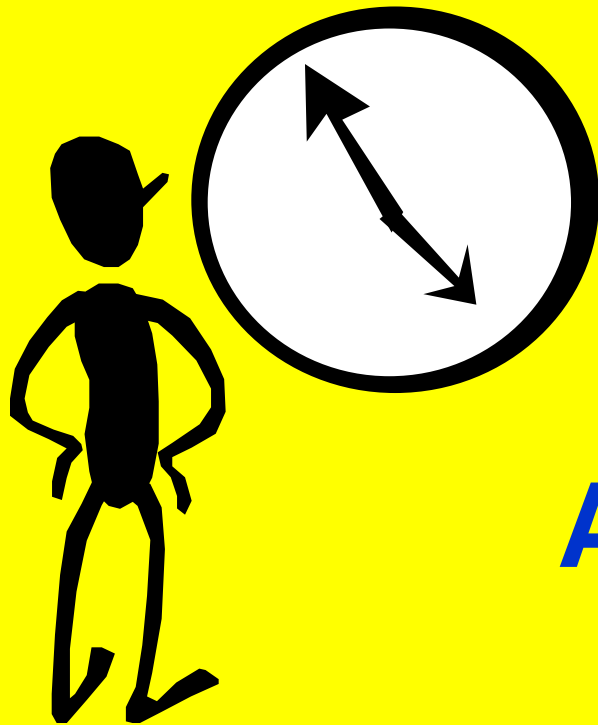
**When your group is done with Q11, return your folder to the front of the classroom.**



**Then return to your group and work on the “Thinking More Deeply” question (Q6) on the bottom of p 35 in Class Notes. The CORRECT G-1 ANSWERS WILL BE GIVEN WHEN ALL FOLDERS ARE IN**

**OK – LETS  
GET TO WORK!**

**IT'S TIME TO  
WRAP IT UP  
AND QUIET DOWN**

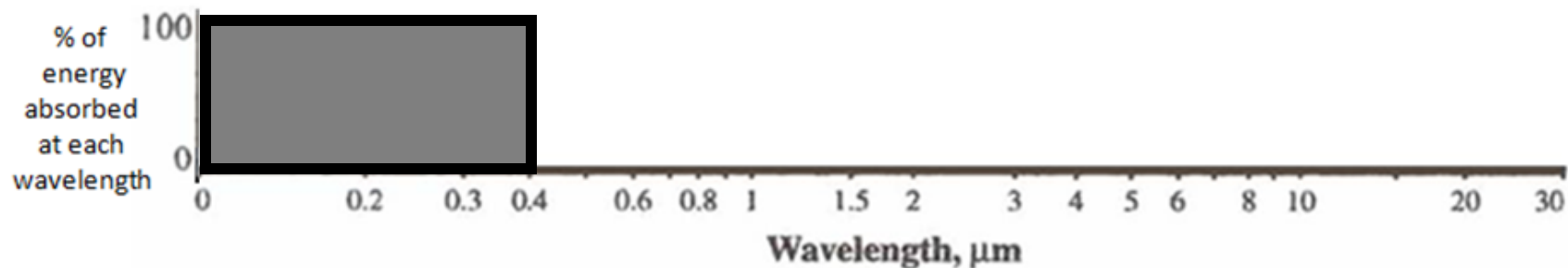


**ALL FOLDERS IN?**

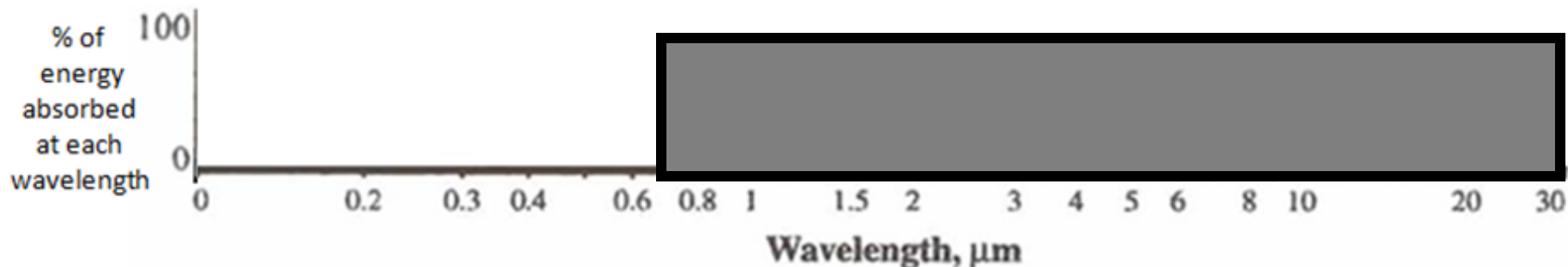


**THE  
ANSWERS . . .**

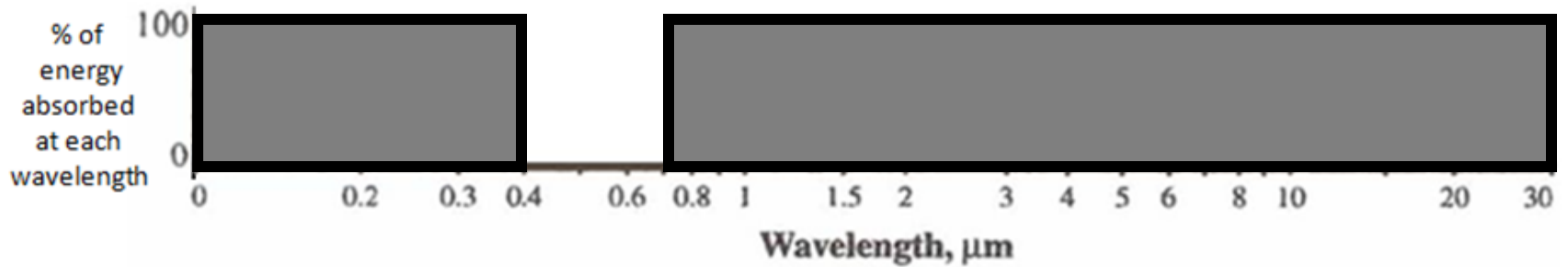
Q1. Draw an absorption curve for a hypothetical gas that can absorb ALL UV radiation but zero visible light and IR radiation. Then shade in the area under your curve in this and subsequent questions.



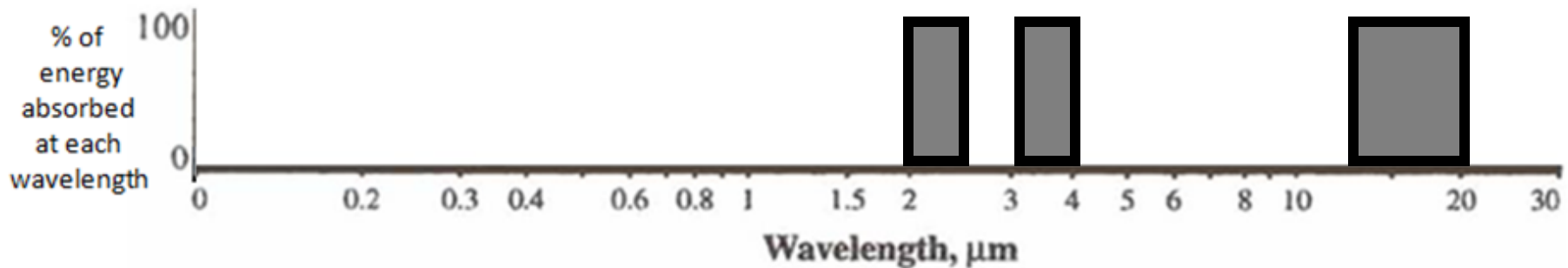
Q2. Draw an absorption curve for a "perfect" greenhouse gas that absorbs ALL IR radiation, but no visible or UV:

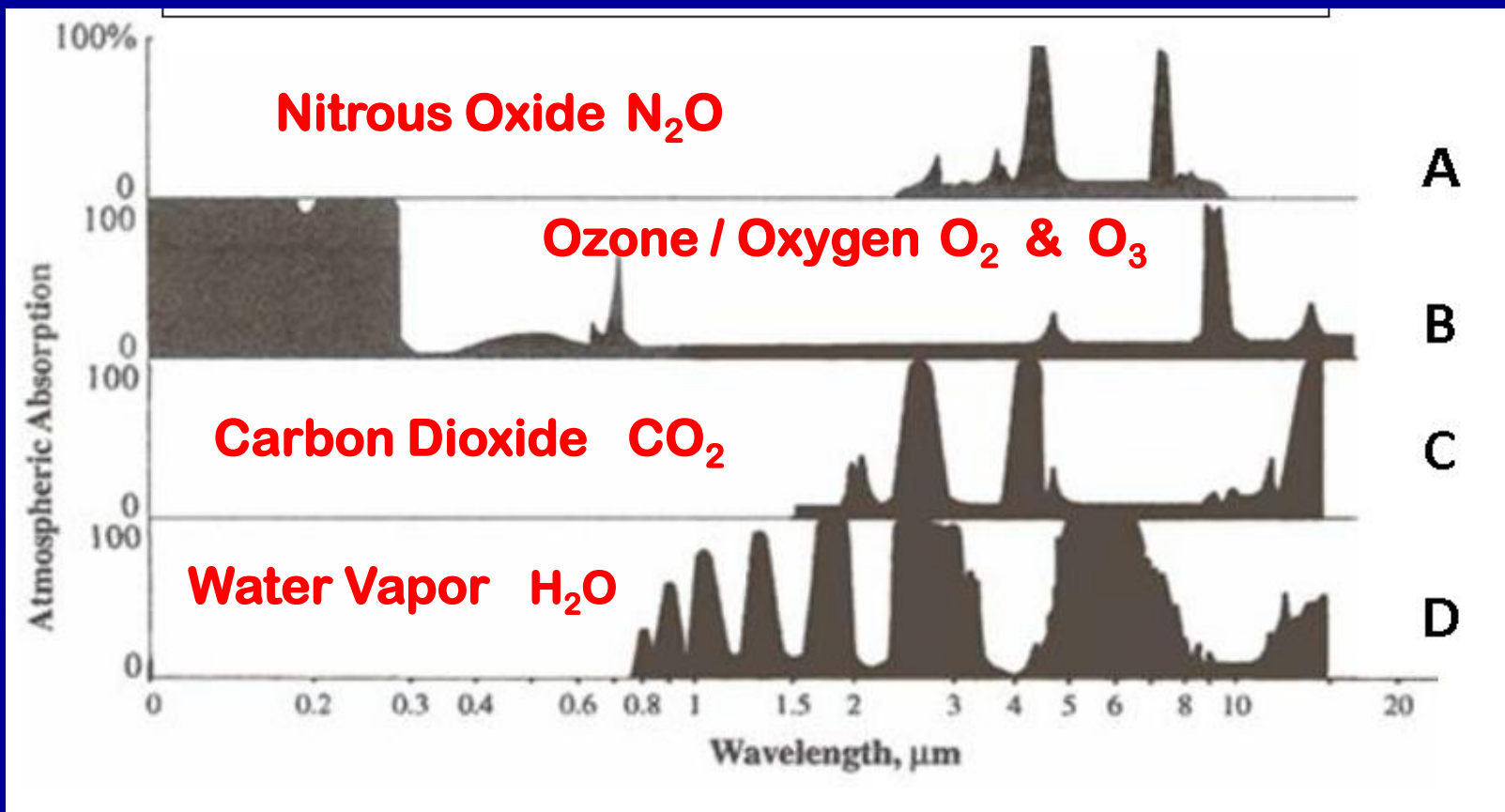


Q3. Draw an absorption curve for a hypothetical gas that absorbs ALL UV radiation and ALL IR radiation, but leaves a "WINDOW" open for visible light, allowing the visible light wavelengths to pass through the gas unimpeded without being absorbed:






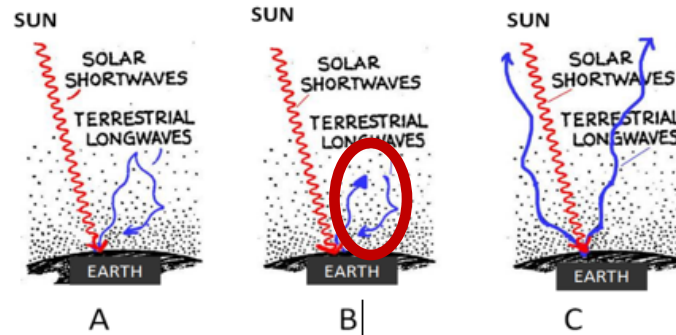
Q4. Draw an absorption curve for a hypothetical gas that can absorb 100% of the IR radiation in these three wavelength bands: band from 2 to 2.5 μm, band from 3 to 4 μm, band from 13 to 20 μm





## SOLAR vs TERRESTRIAL RADIATION CLASS CONCEPTS SELF TEST

**KEY:**  = represents Solar shortwave (SW) radiation  
 = represents Terrestrial longwave (LW) (infrared IR radiation)  
 = represents the atmosphere and its gases (which can absorb & emit certain kinds of radiation)



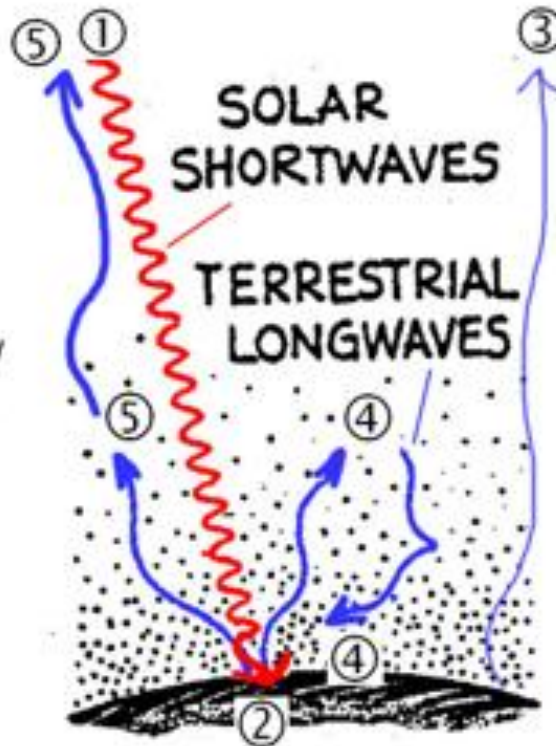
- Q7. Which diagram above shows SW radiation being reflected back to space?  
 Diagram A    Diagram B    Diagram C    **None of them**
- Q8. **Diagram A** shows LW radiation “bouncing off” the gases in the atmosphere (i.e. being reflected back to the surface by the gases without being absorbed by them.) Is this an accurate depiction of how the **Greenhouse Effect** works?    Yes    **No**    Partly  
 Why or Why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Q9. **Diagram B** shows LW radiation being absorbed and then emitted by the gases in the atmosphere. Is this an accurate depiction of how the **Greenhouse Effect** works?    **Yes**    No    Partly  
 Why or Why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Q10. **Diagram C** shows LW radiation going right through the atmosphere out to space. Is this an accurate depiction of how **the Greenhouse Effect** works?    Yes    **No**    Partly  
 Why or Why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Q11. On the diagram above that you think **best depicts the processes involved in the GREENHOUSE EFFECT (A, B or C)**, circle the specific part of the diagram that represents **the Greenhouse Effect**.

## Modified Cartoon of Solar (SW) & Terrestrial (LW / IR) wavelengths of radiation:

① Some Incoming SW radiation from the SUN goes right through the atmosphere to Earth (w/o being absorbed)

② The Earth absorbs SW that reaches the surface

③ Some IR radiation is emitted from the Earth's surface right out to space through "IR window"



④ Some IR radiation is absorbed by GH gases in the atmosphere and emitted back to Earth

⑤ Some IR radiation is absorbed by GH gases in the atmosphere, but is emitted out to space (not back to Earth)

**THINKING MORE DEEPLY:** This diagram is more complete and more accurate than the one at the top of the page, but there are still some important processes not being represented. Can you think of what they might be?

- **NOTE: Please do not ever remove the GROUP FOLDERS from the CLASSROOM**
- **REMINDER: TEST #1 is next class, in THIS classroom on: Thursday Sep 19<sup>th</sup>**
- The **“TOP TEN” Study Guide** is posted in D2L under STUDY GUIDES.

**GOOD LUCK STUDYING!!!**