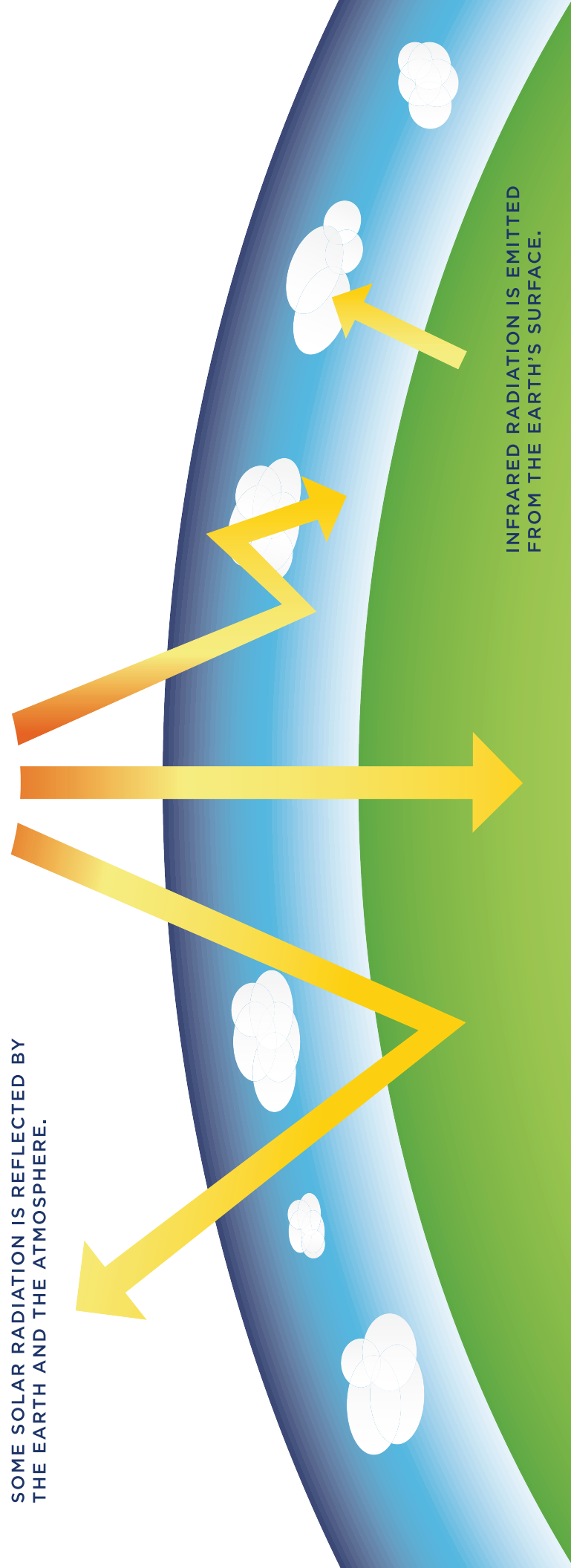


SOLAR RADIATION POWERS THE CLIMATE SYSTEM.

SOME SOLAR RADIATION IS REFLECTED BY THE EARTH AND THE ATMOSPHERE.



INFRARED RADIATION IS EMITTED FROM THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

ABOUT HALF THE SOLAR RADIATION IS ABSORBED BY THE EARTH'S SURFACE AND WARMS IT.

# THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Some of the infrared radiation passes through the atmosphere and is absorbed by the Earth's surface, and much is absorbed by greenhouse gas molecules and clouds. The effect of this is to warm the Earth's surface and the lower atmosphere, creating the climate system that has allowed life to exist on Earth.