Приложение 2

Dangerous Radiation

Our Sun produces a lot of ultraviolet radiation. Too much radiation is dangerous. But the ozone layer protects the Earth from the sun’s dangerous radiation. The ozone layer is situated between fifteen and fifty kilometers above the Earth and consists of a gas called ozone. If there is a hole in the ozone layer, the radiation will come through the hole and a lot of damage on Earth.

People produce many gases which go high into the air and damage the ozone layer. In 1984 some scientists found a hole in the ozone layer above Antarctica. The hole was as big as the USA. In Chile under this hole many sheep now have eye problems. The sun’s radiation also damages people’s bodies.

Some gases which go into the air are called greenhouse gases. They hold the Sun’s warmth and keep it near the Earth. When the Earth was young, the only greenhouse gas was CO2 in the air. There are other greenhouse gases too, and people produce billions of tons of them. Any kind of burning produces CO2 and also NxOy.

Farming – especially of animals and rice – produce another greenhouse gas called methane. The US produces the most greenhouse gases (25 per cent), then Europe, then Russia and the countries around it.

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CO2 (carbon dioxide) – углекислый газ

NxOy (nitric oxide) – оксиды азота

Questions:

1. Too much sun, scientists say, is dangerous. Can you explain why?
2. What is the ozone layer? Why is it important for people on our planet?
3. Why has ultraviolet radiation increased in Chile? What are the results of it?
4. What gases are called greenhouse gases? Why are they dangerous nowadays?
5. Why is burning of any kind dangerous?
6. What countries produce the most greenhouse gases?