Energy in the Atmosphere

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| How does heat affect the weather?  Where does the heat come from?  What kind of energy do we get from the sun?  What is ultraviolet radiation?  What is the path of sunlight?  Why is sunlight absorbed?  Why is sunlight reflected?  What makes a sunset colorful? | The movement of heat in the atmosphere causes temperatures to change, winds to blow, and rains to fall.  Nearly all of the energy in the atmosphere comes from the sun in the form of radiation.  Infrared radiation, visible light, and ultraviolet light come from the sun.  UV light is invisible light from the sun given off as heat, which can cause sunburns.  Sun’s rays are absorbed or reflected by the atmosphere.  Sunlight is absorbed by clouds, dust, water vapor, and the ozone.  Dust particles and gases scatter light and clouds act as a mirror.  When the sun is higher in the sky more light from the blue end of the spectrum is removed by scattering, causing it to look red. |