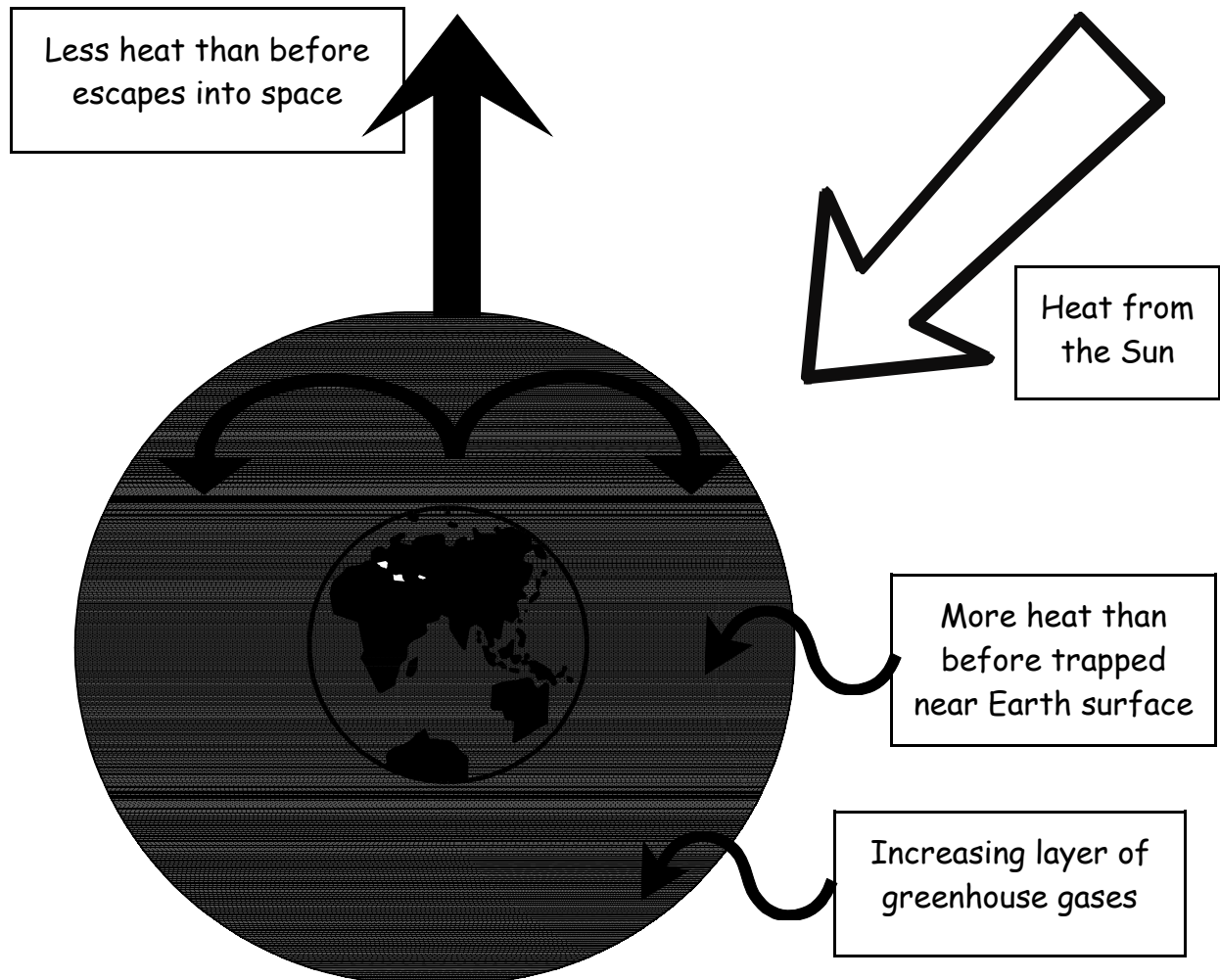


# The Greenhouse Effect



The Earth's atmosphere is important for two reasons:

- ▶ It contains the gases that are vital for life
- ▶ It keeps the temperature just right for living things.
- ▶

Like the glass of a greenhouse it allows the sun's heat to enter, then traps it inside. This has been in just the right balance for thousands of years.

However, over the last 50 years there has a big increase in the amount of oil, gas and coal being burned, releasing vast quantities of these gases into the atmosphere, and causing the temperature to rise.

**What can *we* do to slow this process down?**