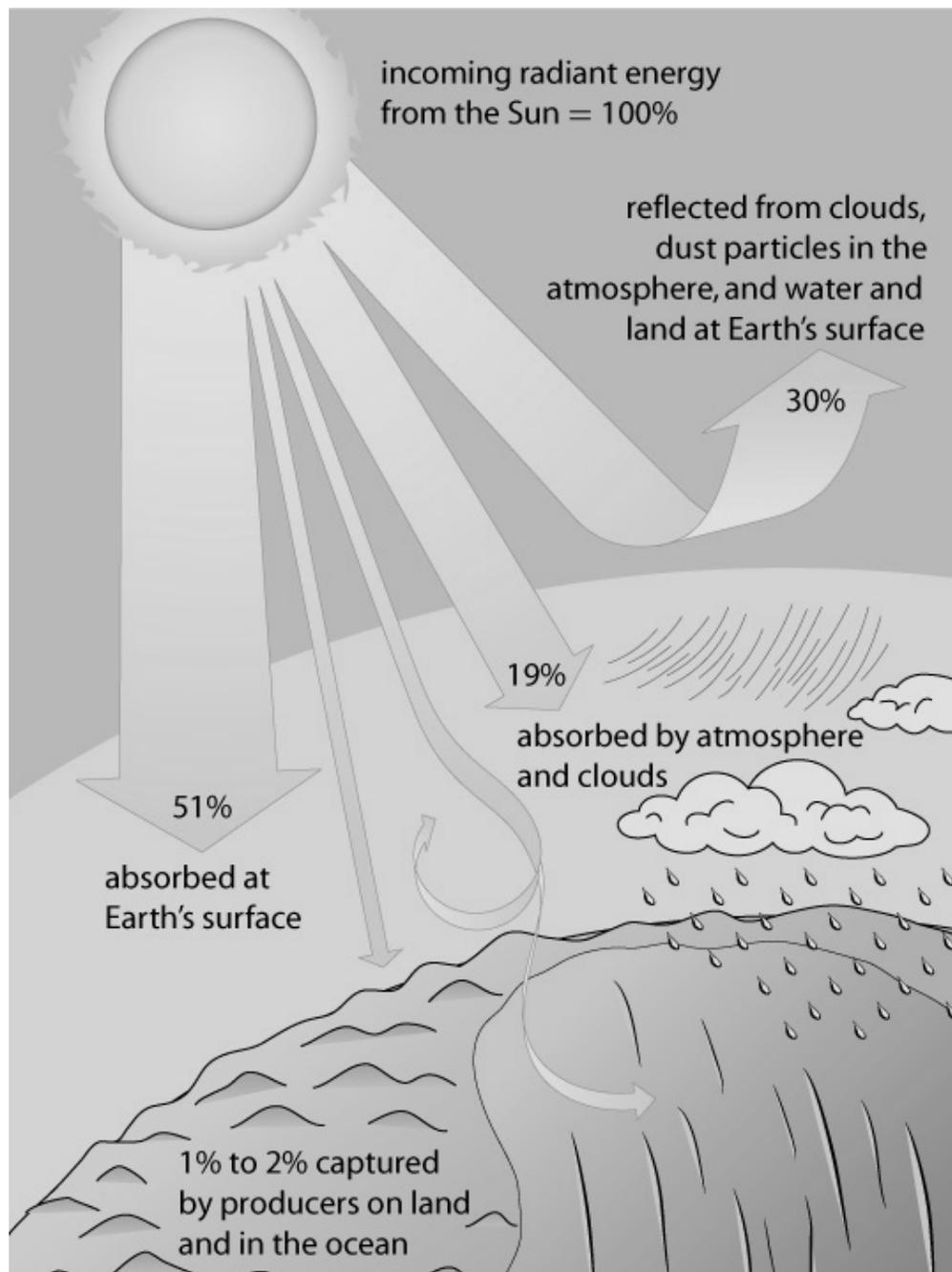


The Path of Incoming Solar Radiation



Scientists estimate that one to two percent of all the energy that reaches Earth from the Sun is captured by producers and converted to chemical energy through photosynthesis. About half of the incoming energy is absorbed by the atmosphere or reflected back into space without ever reaching Earth's surface.