

# Earth and The Atmosphere



## In this topic I will learn:

- how the atmosphere has changed over time
- about global warming and its likely consequences

## By the end of this topic I should be able to:

	Start	End
8.18 Recall that the gases produced by volcanic activity formed the Earth's early atmosphere		
8.19 Describe that the Earth's early atmosphere was thought to contain little or no oxygen, a large amount of carbon dioxide, water vapour and small amounts of other gases and interpret evidence relating to this		
8.20 Explain how condensation of water vapour formed oceans		
8.21 Explain how the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was decreased when carbon dioxide dissolved as the oceans formed		
8.22 Explain how the growth of primitive plants used carbon dioxide and released oxygen by photosynthesis and consequently the amount of oxygen in the atmosphere gradually increased		
8.23 Describe the chemical test for oxygen		
8.24 Describe how various gases in the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide, methane and water vapour, absorb heat radiated from the Earth, subsequently releasing energy which keeps the Earth warm: this is known as the greenhouse effect		
8.25 Evaluate the evidence for human activity causing climate change, considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the correlation between the change in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration, the consumption of fossil fuels and temperature change</li> <li>• the uncertainties caused by the location where these measurements are taken and historical accuracy</li> </ul>		
8.26 Describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the potential effects on the climate of increased levels of carbon dioxide and methane generated by human activity, including burning fossil fuels and livestock farming</li> <li>• that these effects may be mitigated: consider scale, risk and environmental implications</li> </ul>		