

0063 - The Increase of Oxygen & Decrease of Carbon Dioxide

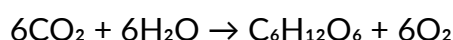
Lesson Objectives

- Identify key theories behind why oxygen levels increased over time and carbon dioxide levels have decreased.
- Recall the word and balanced symbol equations for photosynthesis.

Course Notes

Algae existed 2.7 billion years ago, which was able to photosynthesise.

carbon dioxide + water (+ light energy) → glucose + oxygen



Enough oxygen was produced so that evolution could occur – plants developed and, eventually, animals (over the next couple billion years).

This (photosynthesis) also decreased the percentage of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide was also 'locked' away in sedimentary rock formations (e.g. calcium carbonate) and in fossil fuels (carbon based life forms dying and pressure/heat resulting in oil, coal & gas being formed).