

# The Earth's Atmosphere

Extensive volcanic activity for about the first billion years

## Early Earth

Mainly Carbon Dioxide and Water Vapour

smaller amounts of Nitrogen, Hydrogen, Ammonia, Methane

little or no Oxygen

## Cooling Earth

water vapour condensed

forming the oceans

## Changing gases

Carbon Dioxide decreased

absorbed by plants

dissolved in the oceans

locked up in sedimentary rocks and fossil fuels

Oxygen increased

photosynthesis by plants.

carbon dioxide + water → glucose + oxygen

## Present composition

proportions are given for DRY air

air can contain water vapour ranging from 1-3%

### Elements

Nitrogen (78 %)

Oxygen (21 %)

Argon (0.9 %)

Neon (0.0018 %)

### Compounds

Carbon dioxide (0.04 %)