

Stanley Miller found that (with energy input) simple organic compounds can be formed from the inorganic molecules present on the early Earth. Which of the following was NOT one of the molecules present on the early Earth?

A hydrogen

B methane

C oxygen

D ammonia

Little oxygen was present in the Earth's early atmosphere. Oxygen is not needed to create simple organic compounds from inorganic precursors. The presence of free oxygen would actually break down any simple organic compounds that formed.

Answer C.

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