

When did oxygen start to accumulate in the earth's atmosphere?

- A when the noncyclic pathway of photosynthesis arose
- B when the cyclic pathway of photosynthesis arose
- C when aerobic respiration arose
- D when fermentation arose

By the dawn of the Proterozoic eon, 2.5 billion years ago, the noncyclic pathway of photosynthesis had evolved in some eubacterial species. Oxygen, one of its by-products, started to accumulate.

Answer **A**.