

For Release
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Oxygen and fire! Men did not discover until 1774 that it was the oxygen of the air which is necessary for fire. The oxygen of the air is responsible for most of the oxidizing occurring in nature. The rusting of iron or the tarnishing of copper and silver are simply examples of slow oxidation; while the burning of wood, coal and paper are examples of rapid oxidation, which is the chemical process of oxygen combining with these substances. Breathing is another example of the use of oxygen in our bodies; we breathe out carbon dioxide.
