

Aerobic Encyclopedia Article

Aerobic

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Aerobic

Refers to either an **environment** that contains molecular oxygen gas (O_2); an organism or tissue that requires oxygen for its **metabolism**; or a chemical or biological process that requires oxygen. Aerobic organisms use molecular oxygen in **respiration**, releasing **carbon dioxide** (CO_2) in return. These organisms include mammals, fish, birds, and green plants, as well as many of the lower life forms such as **fungi**, algae, and sundry bacteria and actinomycetes. Many, but not all, organic **decomposition** processes are aerobic; a lack of oxygen greatly slows these processes.