**What if there were less oxygen?**

“Reducing oxygen levels thins the atmosphere, allowing more sunlight to reach Earth’s surface,” explains Poulsen. More sunlight lets more moisture evaporate from the planet’s surface, which increases humidity. Because water vapor is a greenhouse gas, more heat gets trapped near Earth's surface, and temperatures rise. The increased humidity and temperature also leads to increases in precipitation. By contrast, when oxygen concentrations are higher, the atmosphere gets thicker and scatters more sunlight. As a result, there is less water vapor to trap heat.