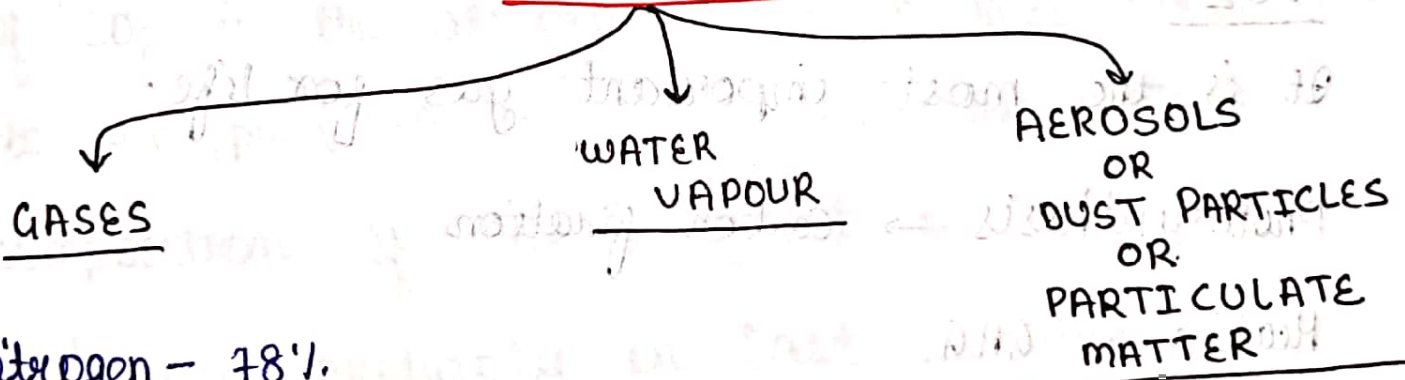


- The gaseous envelop that surrounds the earth is known, as atmosphere.
- The atmosphere is attached to the earth by the earth's gravitational field.
- The height of the atmosphere is somewhere around 16000 km but, effective atmosphere is only upto lower 80 kms.

COMPOSITION



Nitrogen - 78%.

Oxygen - 21%.

Argon - 0.93%.

CO₂ - 0.03%.

Krypton	} Gases
Xenon	
Neon	
Helium	

Traces

Gases

Hydrogen is an inert gas. It is important because it controls the rate of combustion and forms an important part of Amino acids (Proteins).

Oxygen

It is an important gas because it is required for respiration by most form of life but the early atmosphere did not have free oxygen.

CO₂

It is the most important gas for life.

Photosynthesis → Carbon fixation

Heating → GHG

Though CO₂ constitutes 0.03% of earth's atmospheric composition it is a major gas which will affect the heat budget of earth because CO₂ is a GHG. Any gas that is transparent to incoming solar radiation but is opaque to outgoing terrestrial radiation is known as GHG. All the GHG are efficient absorbers of heat specially the IR (infrared) waves. This effect is known