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Inclusion Gas Analysis: A game changer for the geosciences

A new way is presented of determining the oxygen level of Earth's past atmosphere by measuring the gas trapped in halite inclusions. These are the first oxygen measurements (10.9 %) from the 815 Ma old Browne Formation, southwest Australia. The measured pO_2 level puts oxygenation of Earth's paleoatmosphere $\sim 100\text{-}200$ m.y. ahead of current studies, but in agreement with increase and diversification of Neoproterozoic marine life.

