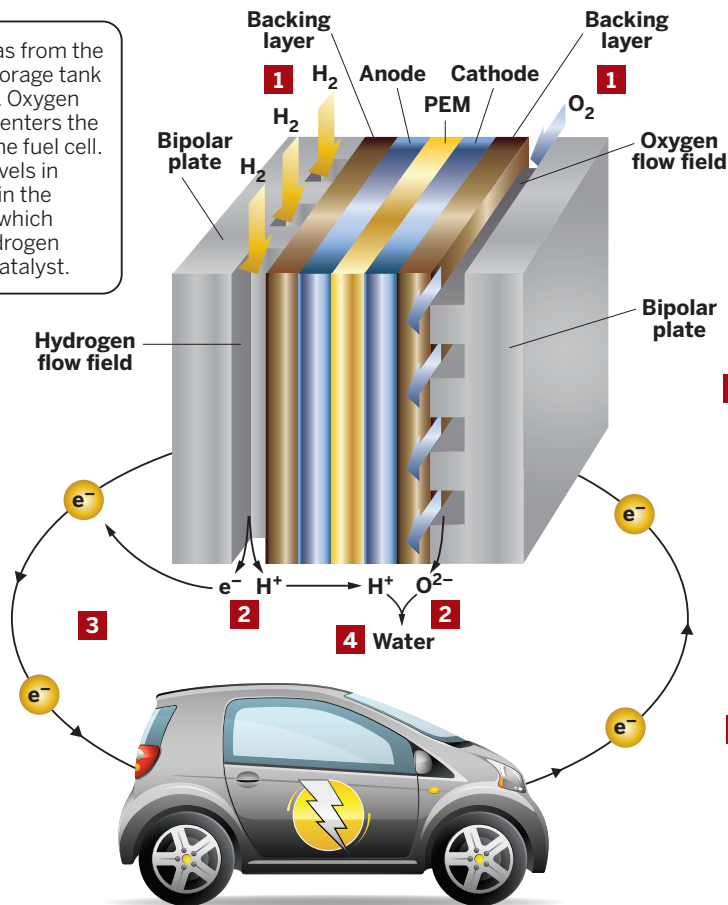


1

Pressurized H₂ gas from the car's hydrogen storage tank enters the anode. Oxygen from ambient air enters the cathode side of the fuel cell. The hydrogen travels in channels etched in the anode's surface, which distribute the hydrogen over a platinum catalyst.

2

At the anode, the catalyst splits hydrogen into protons and electrons. At the cathode, the oxygen gas is forced through a catalyst, which forms two negatively charged oxygen ions.

**3**

The negatively charged cathode causes protons to split off and move away from the anode through the proton exchange membrane (PEM). Electrons, now split from the hydrogen, form an electric circuit that powers the car and charges its battery.

4

When the protons meet the negatively charged oxygen atoms, the fuel cell produces water as a waste product.