

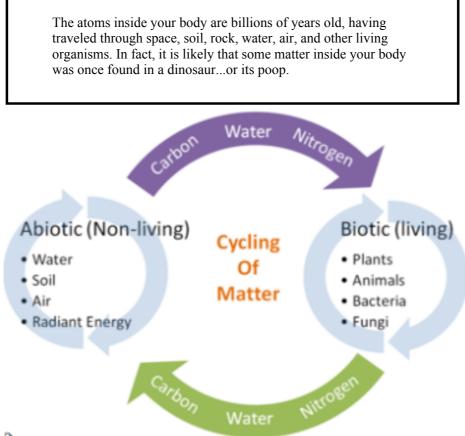


Matter is made up of atoms, takes up space and has mass.

In nature, matter is not destroyed; it is either transformed into different types of matter or moved from one location to another in processes we call **cycles**.

Matter must be recycled to maintain life on Earth.

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## **Biogeochemical Cycles**

Inorganic substances cycle through organisms, the atmosphere, the oceans, and even rocks. Since these *chem*icals cycle through both the *bio*logical and the *geo*logical world, we call the overall cycles <u>biogeochemical cycles</u> We will study two of these cycles.

- 1. Carbon Cycle
- 2. Nitrogen Cycle

<u>Reservoirs</u> are those parts of a cycle where the chemical is stored in large quantities for long periods of time (ie/ the atmosphere, oceans and Earth's crust).

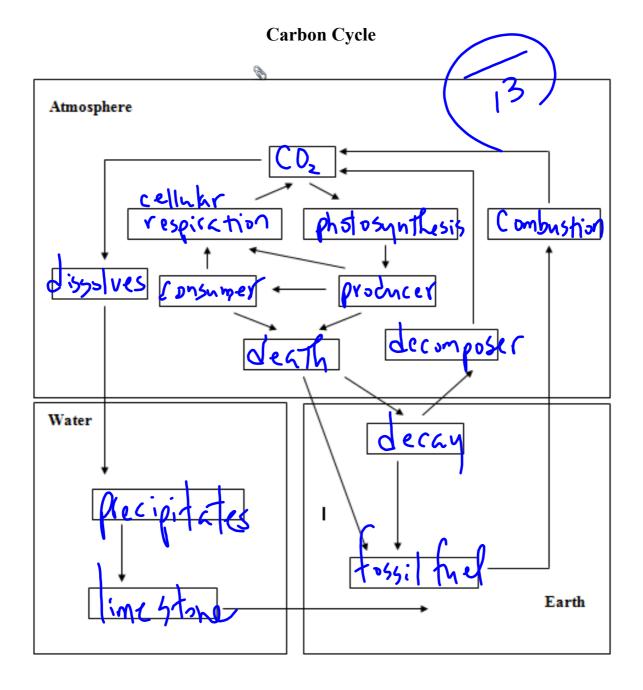
> atmospheric carbon -> 0.039% atmospheric oxygen -> 20.95% atmospheric nitrogen -> 78.09%

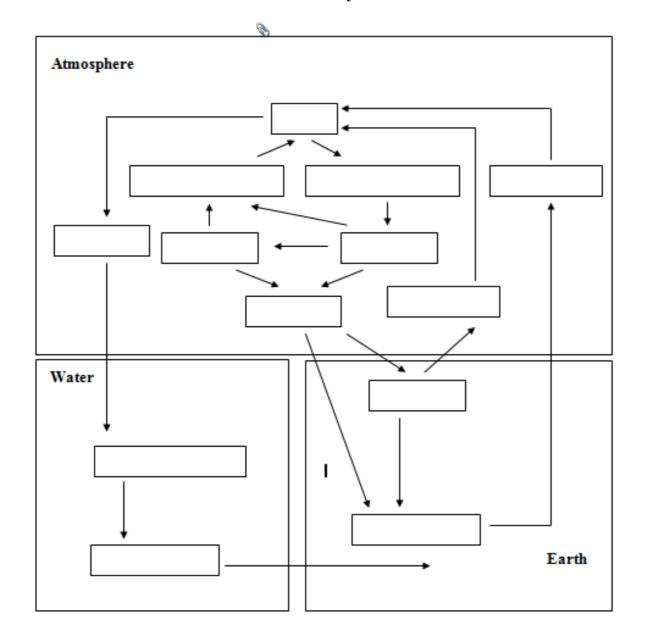


Carbon is the key element in living things. Two key processes are involved in the carbon cycle: <u>photosynthesis</u> and <u>cellular respiration</u>.

1. <u>Photosynthesis</u> light (from atmosphere)  $b CO_2 + b H_2O - \frac{light}{energy} > C_6H_{12}O_6 + bO_2$ 2. <u>Cellular Respiration</u> glucose + oxygen ---> carbon dioxide + water + energy  $C_6H_{12}O_6 + b O_2 ---> b CO_2 + b H_2O + energy$ 

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**Carbon Cycle** 

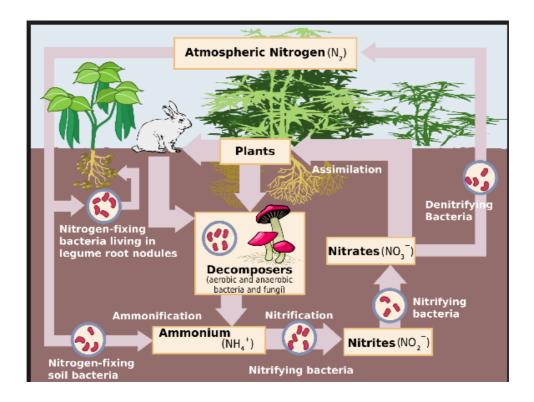
## The Nitrogen Cycle

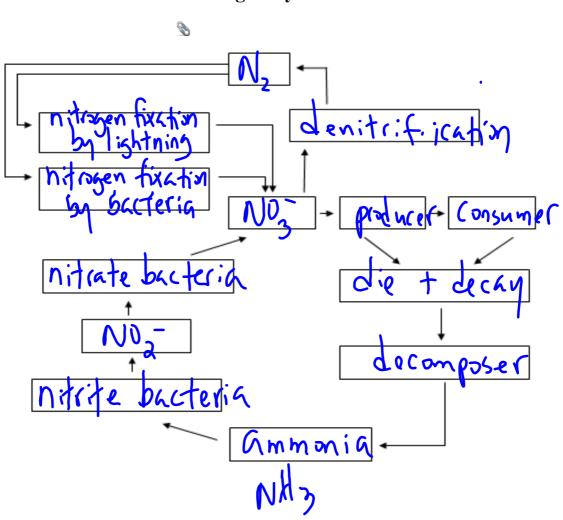
Life depends on the cycling of nitrogen. Nitrogen is required so cells can make proteins and for the synthesis of DNA\*. The movement of nitrogen through ecosystems is called the <u>nitrogen</u> cycle and is complex.

\*deoxyribonucleic acid

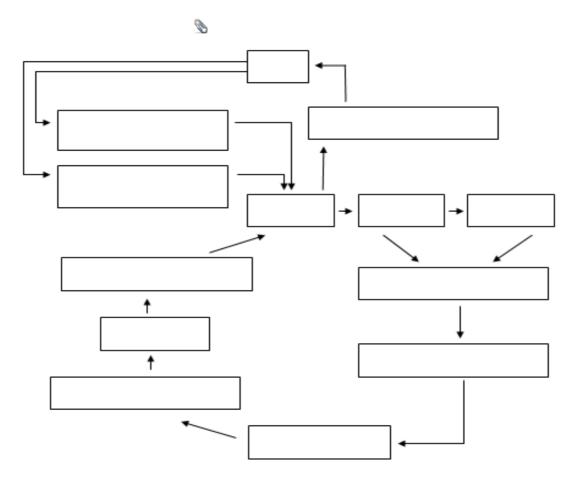
To be useful to organisms, atmospheric nitrogen (N) must be supplied as nitrate ions (NO<sup>3-</sup>). This occurs through the process of <u>nitrogen fixation</u> by lightning or bacteria.

<u>Denitrification</u> is the process by which nitrites are broken down into nitrates by bacteria, then the nitrates are broken down into nitrogen gas.  $N_2$  is then released into the atmosphere.





## Nitrogen Cycle



## Nitrogen Cycle

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