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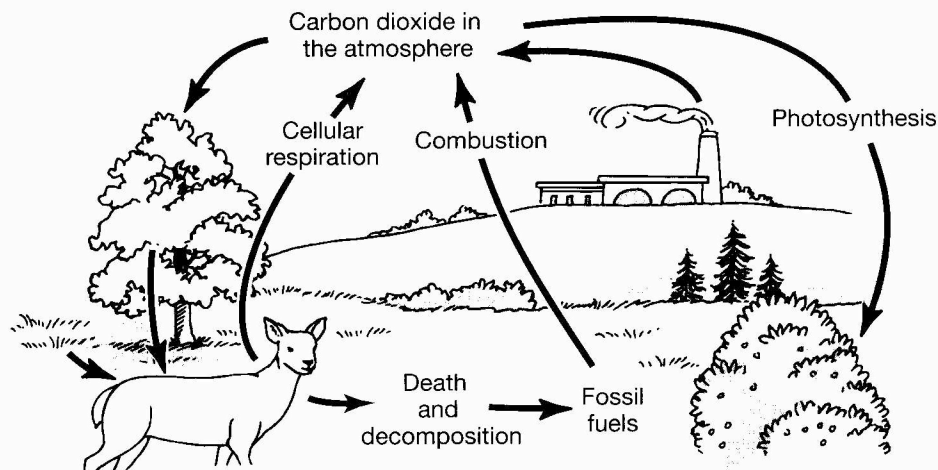
Write your notes  
about what you are  
reading in this space.

## Science Shorts -8

### The Earth's Carbon Cycle

**Carbon** is another element that is important to living things. Like nitrogen, it moves through the environment in a cycle. All living things contain carbon, but they cannot make new carbon—they take carbon from the environment. Therefore, carbon must be recycled, and this process is called the **carbon cycle**.

Carbon is moved into the living world mostly by organisms such as plants and algae that use the sun's energy to turn carbon dioxide into organic matter. Other living things eat plants (or eat animals that eat plants), and get carbon. Carbon returns to the atmosphere and the non-living world through respiration, burning, and decay.



**The Carbon Cycle**

Lakes, seas, and oceans also take carbon dioxide out of the air. The carbon dioxide combines with water to make another form of carbon called a **carbonate**. Many of the small living things in the sea form shells from carbonates. When they die, their shells fall to the bottom and eventually become part of sedimentary rocks. These sedimentary rocks can end up deep underground, where they melt. When the rocks melt, the carbonates get changed back into carbon dioxide gas.

People can change how much carbon is in the air. When cars burn gasoline, they add carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide to the air. The same thing happens when power plants burn coal. When people burn forests to clear land for farming, they destroy plants that take carbon dioxide out of the air and release carbon into the air by burning.

## Words To Know

<p>Word</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CARBON</b></p>	<p>Write a sentence from the reading that uses the word.</p>	<p>Word</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CARBON CYCLE</b></p>	<p>Write a sentence from the reading that uses the word.</p>
<p>Draw a picture of the word.</p>	<p>Write your own sentence that uses the word.</p>	<p>Draw a picture of the word.</p>	<p>Write your own sentence that uses the word.</p>
<p>Word</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CARBONATE</b></p>	<p>Write a sentence from the reading that uses the word.</p>	<p>Word</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CARBON DIOXIDE</b></p>	<p>Write a sentence from the reading that uses the word.</p>
<p>Draw a picture of the word.</p>	<p>Write your own sentence that uses the word.</p>	<p>Draw a picture of the word.</p>	<p>Write your own sentence that uses the word.</p>