

NATURAL RESOURCES

Facts that Matter

Life exists on earth due to its ambient temperature, water, food and energy from the sun.

- **Lithosphere:** The outer crust of the earth is called the lithosphere.
- **Hydrosphere:** Sum of all water bodies is called hydrosphere.
- **Atmosphere:** Air that covers the earth is called the atmosphere.
- **Biosphere:** The life-supporting zone of the earth where the atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere interact and make life possible is called biosphere.

It consists of biotic components-living things and abiotic components-non-living things like air, water and soil

AIR: It is a mixture of many gases like oxygen, nitrogen, carbon-dioxide, water vapour and other gases.

- Nitrogen is used by plants for protein synthesis.
- Oxygen sustains life used for respiration, combustion.
- Carbon-dioxide used by plants for preparing food by photosynthesis.
- Water vapour: provides moisture.

ATMOSPHERE: Acts as a protective blanket around the earth. Maintains the temperature on the surface of earth. Winds are caused due to uneven heating of atmosphere, these winds maintains the pressure difference and causes cold and hot air, sea and land breeze, brings rain etc.

RAIN: The clouds formed due to the evaporation of water condenses and precipitates as rain.

WATER: Various sources of water are available i.e., surface water, underground water, snow, ice-bergs, water vapour in the atmosphere.

USE OF WATER

- Water is used for transportation.
- Sustain life
- Used by plants and animals for life-processes. Water available for drinking should be conserved and used wisely.
- Soil: Soil is formed by a very slow process i.e., by weathering of rocks. It consists of various nutrients. Plants grow in the soil, many microbe's homes is soil.

VARIETIES OF SOIL TYPES ARE AVAILABLE

- Sandy soil
- Loamy Soil
- Clayey Soil
- Black soil
- Red soil
- Alluvial soil
- Laterite soil.

TEMPERATURE: Temperature and light is also required for all biotic components.

POLLUTION: Contamination of natural sources with unwanted substances.

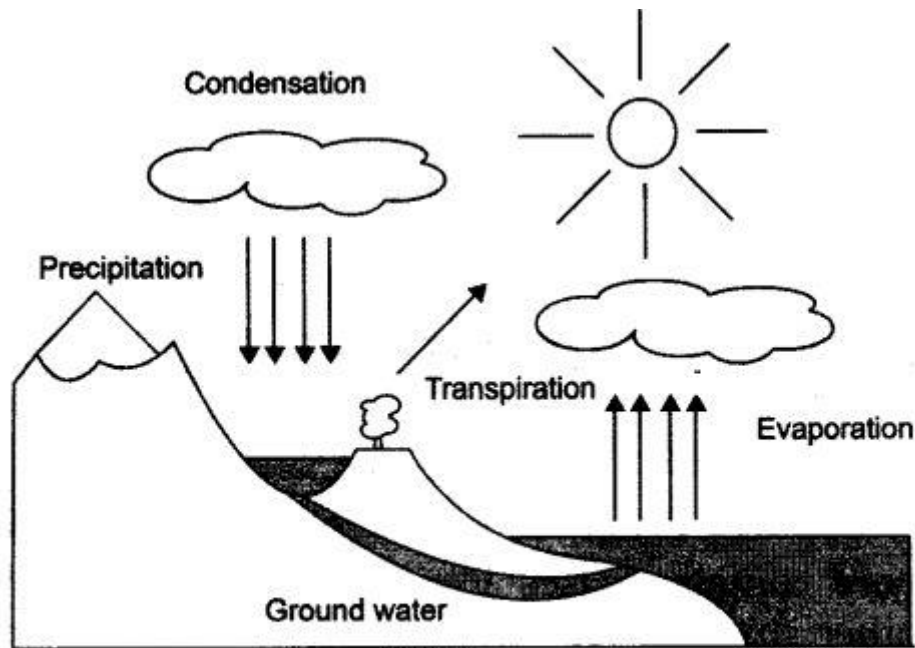
AIR POLLUTION: Air contaminated with smoke, fumes, dust, pollen grain, etc.

WATER POLLUTION: Water contaminated by sewage, industrial waste, excreta, chemicals, fertilizers etc.

SOIL POLLUTION: Soil gets contaminated with fertilizers, pesticides, garbage, chemicals etc.

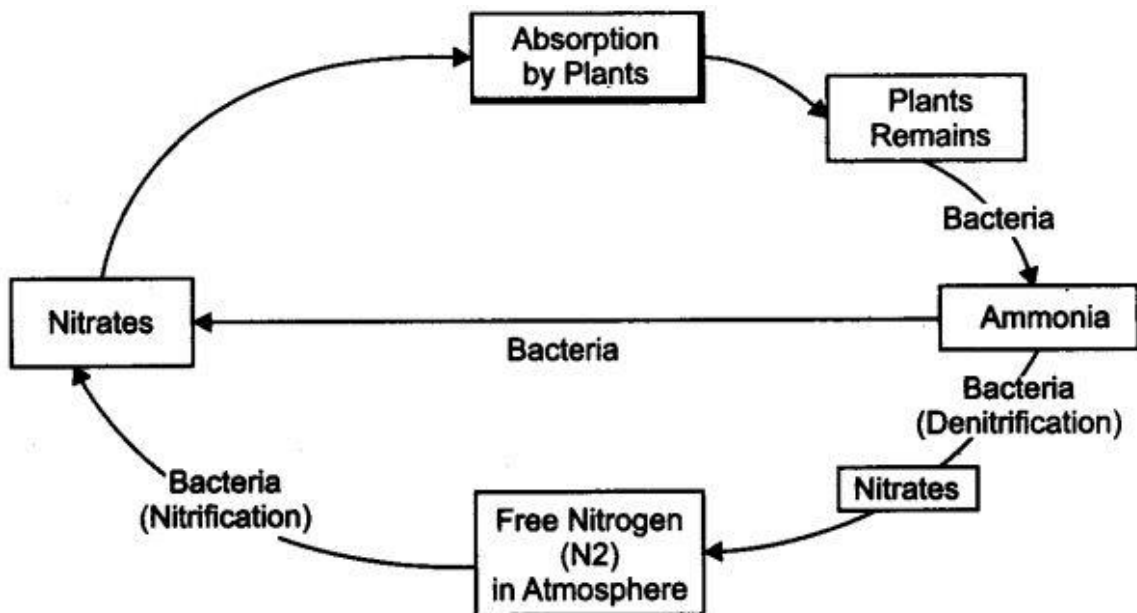
BIO-GEO-CHEMICAL CYCLES: A constant interaction between biotic and abiotic components of the biosphere makes a system and these flow of components form a cycle called bio-geo-chemical cycle.

Water Cycle: Water from various sources evaporates, condenses and again precipitates as rain, falls on the land, flows back in the sea and river is known as water cycle.



Water Cycle

Nitrogen Cycle:



Nitrogen from the atmosphere is fixed by the process of nitrification. Nitrification is done by nitrogen fixing bacteria e.g. Rhizobium present in soil, these compounds of nitrogen are absorbed by plants. The fixation is also done

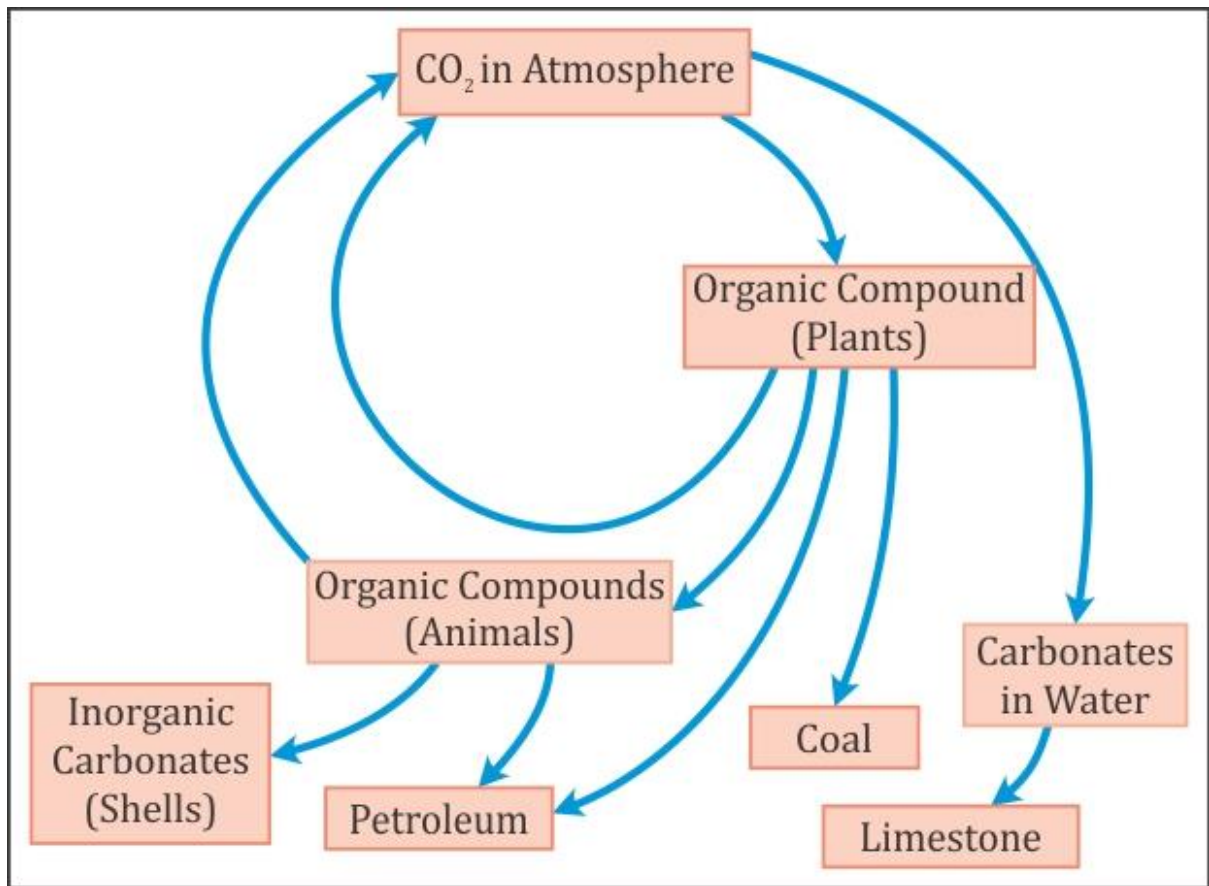
by atmosphere or industries. In atmosphere, during lightning, high temperatures and pressures created in air converts nitrogen into oxides of nitrogen, which dissolves in water forming nitric and nitrous acids and is then used by life forms.

Plants contain nitrogen in the form of proteins or other complex compounds. Plants are eaten by animals. When die bacteria present in soil act on and convert plants and animals various compounds of nitrogen into nitrites and nitrifies. Another group of bacteria convert these nitrates and nitrites into free, elemental nitrogen, this process is called denitrification.

Carbon Cycle: Carbon is present in the compound form in atmosphere ie., CO₂, carbonates in water which forms limestone.

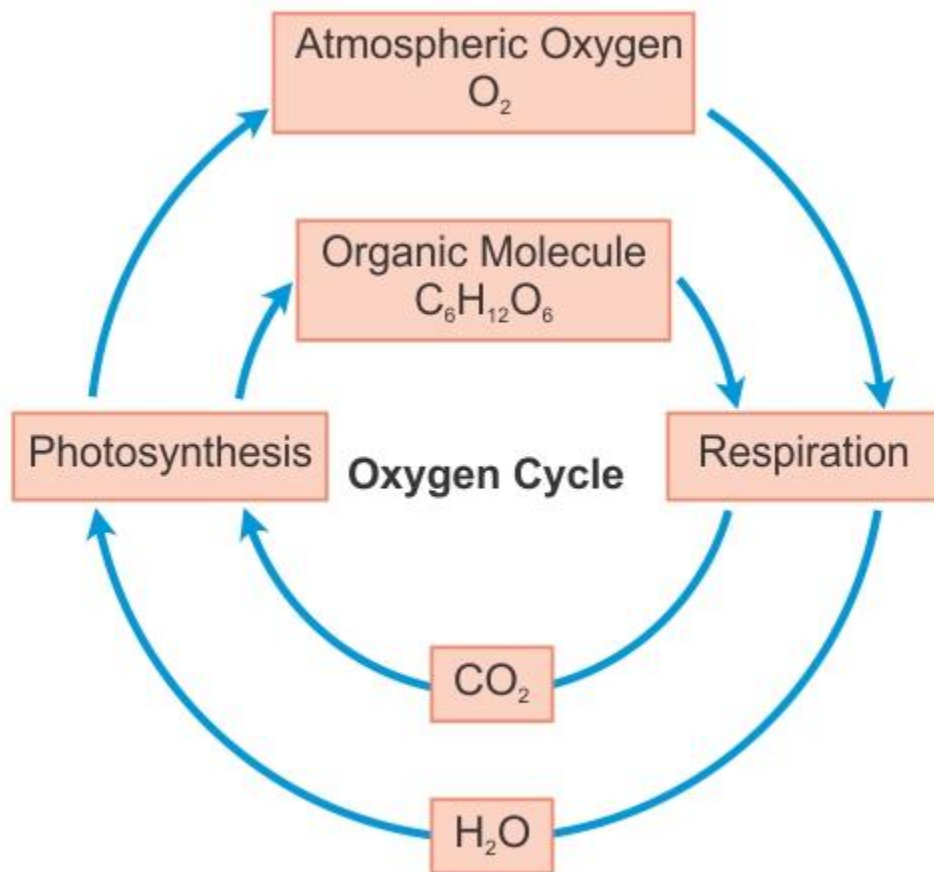
CO₂ is taken by plants during photosynthesis to form organic compounds like glucose, carbohydrates, these plants are further eaten by animals, and decomposition gives CO₂ back to the atmosphere. Plants and animals which get buried under the earth and does not decompose form coal and petroleum respectively.

Animals and plants also release CO₂ back to the atmosphere during respiration.



Oxygen cycle

The cyclic process by which oxygen element is circulated continuously through the living and non-living components of the biosphere constitutes oxygen cycle.



Oxygen cycle involves the following processes:

- a. Respiration: All living organisms take in simple sugars (glucose) and oxygen and release carbon dioxide, water and energy.
- b. Combustion: During the processes of combustion (or burning), oxygen reacts with carbon to form carbon dioxide gas.
- c. Photosynthesis: Carbon dioxide gas from atmosphere is absorbed by green plants in the presence of sunlight to form carbohydrates and oxygen. Thus, oxygen is liberated in atmosphere.

YOU CAN ALSO DO THE FLOWCHART OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF CYCLES FROM YOUR BOOK

OZONE LAYER

The ozone layer is a thin part of the Earth's atmosphere, which functions as a shield over the Earth's stratosphere and absorbs the greatest amount of the Sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The ozone layer comprises high concentrations of ozone (O₃) in relation to other parts of the atmosphere.

OZONE LAYER DEPLETION

Ozone layer depletion is the reduction of the amount of ozone in the stratosphere which results in greater UV radiations reaching the earth surface.

CFCS

Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) is an organic compound that contains carbon, chlorine, and fluorine

GREENHOUSE EFFECT

The greenhouse effect is the natural phenomenon, which occurs when the greenhouse gases present in the Earth's atmosphere traps solar radiation. Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), ozone (O₃), chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and water vapour (H₂O) are called greenhouse gases.