

Carbon Cycle

Activity Instructions

The image and questions below can be used to engage students in critical thinking and in-class discussion around a key concept that will be tested during the AP exam. To help get you started, we have provided several suggestions on how to use this activity.

- Present the image on-screen to the class or print copies to give to each student or pairs/groups of students.
- Discuss the image and brainstorm what students know about the Carbon Cycle.
- Pose the following questions to your students. Have students either work together to formulate their answers or have students respond individually.
- Have students share their answers with the class and discuss.
- After the activity, print the image as a poster to hang in your classroom to reinforce the lesson.

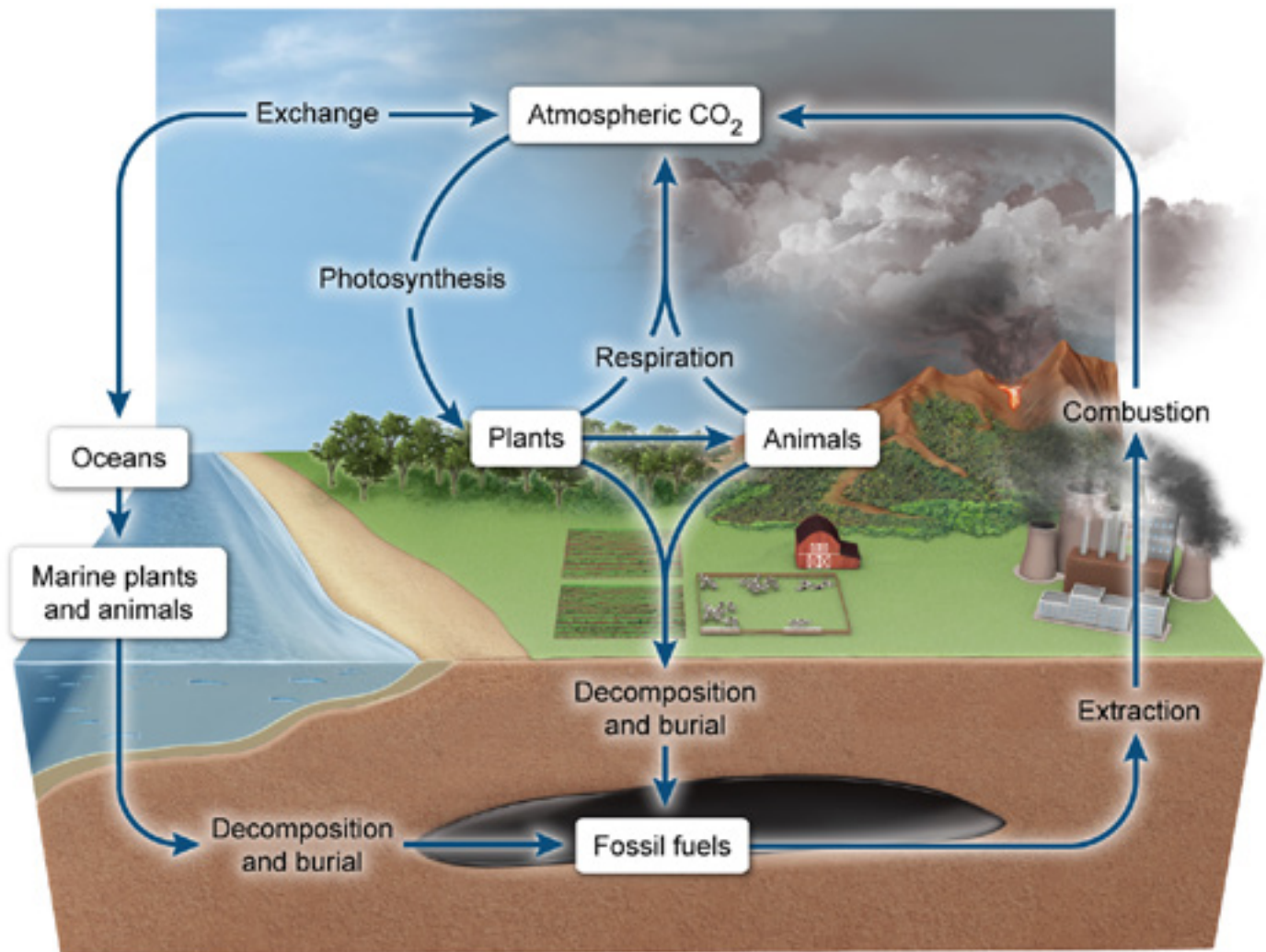
Activity Prompts

1. Which reservoirs of the carbon cycle hold carbon for a relative short time?
2. What is the chemical reaction for photosynthesis?
3. What types of terrestrial ecosystems are likely to produce fossil fuels over millions of years?



Carbon Cycle

The circulation of various chemical forms of carbon through the environment. The major reservoirs include deep oceans, fossil fuels, old growth forests, and the atmosphere. Humans alter the carbon cycle through combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation.



White boxes represent reservoirs.

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