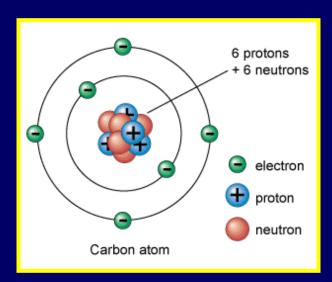
Ecosystem Recycling



Clarifying Objective 2.1.1

Analyze the flow of energy and cycling of matter, such as water, carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen through the ecosystem.

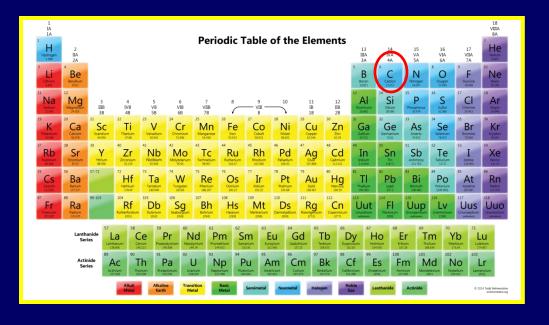


All living things are made up of organic molecules that contain carbon and carbon is an important component in energy rich food such as carbohydrates.



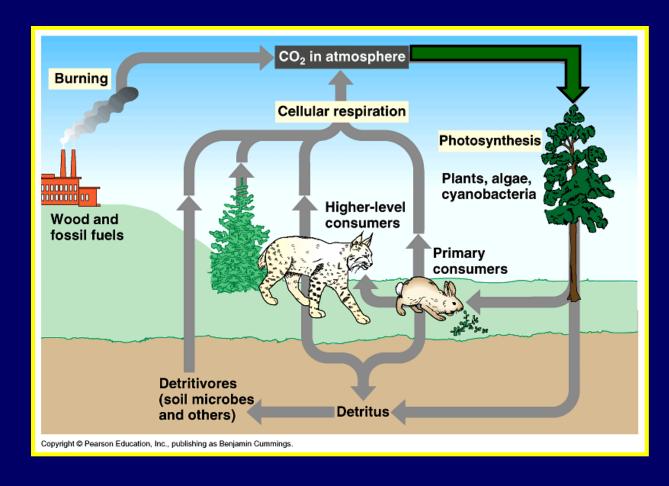






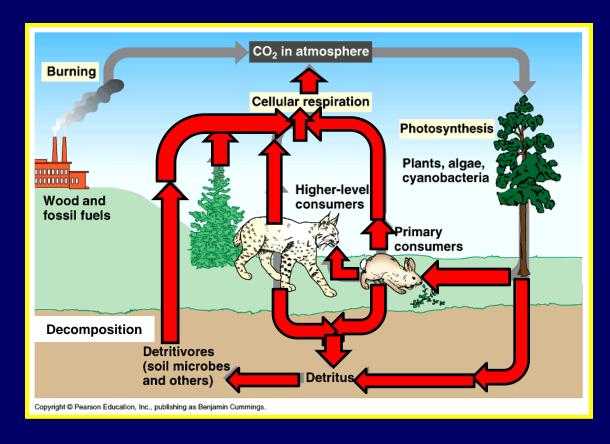
Carbon is drawn out of the atmosphere through photosynthesis when CO₂ is converted into C₆H₁₂O₆

Only
biological
process that
removes
CO₂ from
atmosphere



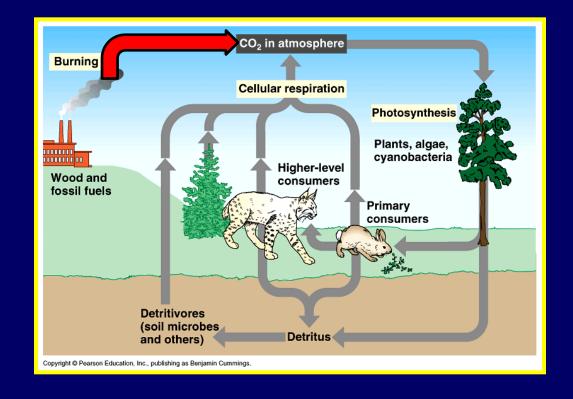
Carbon is then passed on through the food chain and released back into the atmosphere through cellular respiration

Decomposition is also part of cellular respiration

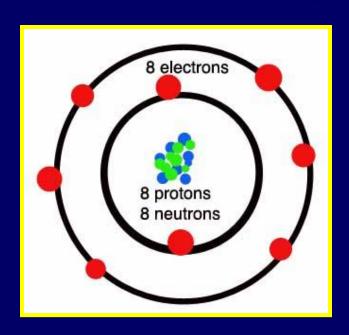


Carbon that is not eaten or decomposed is turned into fossil fuel.

When wood and fossil fuels are burned, during combustion, carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere.

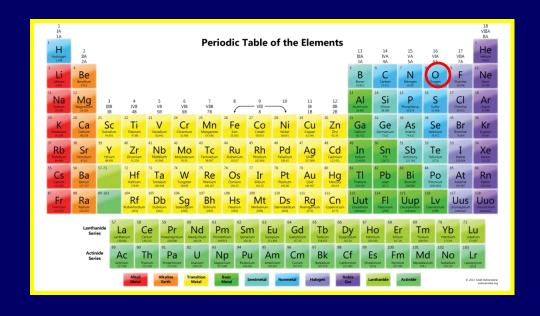


Oxygen Cycle



Most organisms need oxygen to help them break down glucose into energy, during cellular respiration.

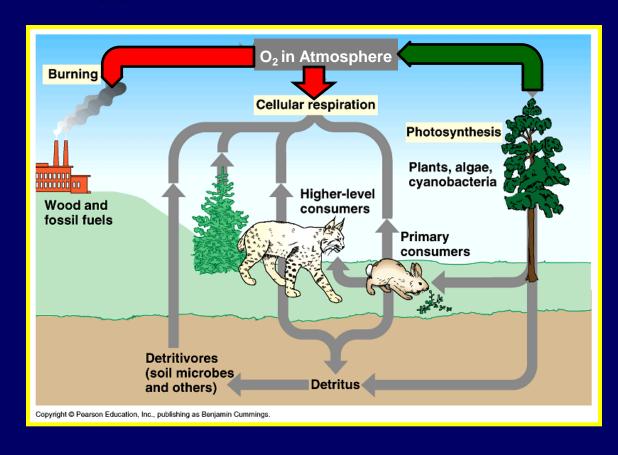
Oxygen makes up 21% of the atmosphere



Oxygen Cycle

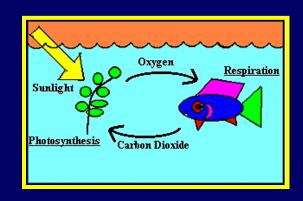
During the oxygen cycle, the exact same processes are involved as in the carbon cycle, but the direction of oxygen flow is opposite that of carbon flow.

Photosynthesis
is the only
biological
process that
returns O₂ to
the atmosphere



Oxygen Cycle

The same processes happen underwater as well.





Oxygen gas becomes dissolved in water, just like carbon dioxide gas is dissolved in soft drinks.

Fish breathe in dissolved oxygen gas as water passes through the gills.

