


Carbon Cycle Vocabulary

Photosynthesis:  Takes CO₂ from atmosphere and stores it in plants (builds biomass of plants)

Respiration:  Releases CO₂ from living things (biosphere) back to the atmosphere.

Consumption:  Moves Carbon from one living organism to another

Combustion:  Burning of fossil fuels. Moves carbon from geosphere to atmosphere.

Decomposition:  Breaking down of dead organisms. Decomposers do cellular respiration with adds CO₂ to atmosphere, but they also recycle carbon into the soil. Biosphere to atmosphere and Biosphere to geosphere.

Greenhouse Effect: _____

CO₂ and methane trap heat in the atmosphere causing the earth to warm

Global Warming: Warming of global temperatures on earth

Biosynthesis: Organisms build molecules for themselves using carbon.