

## Standard 12.5.2 – Geochemical Cycles

### Terms:

1. **Cycle:** The continuous movement of molecules between the atmosphere, earth and living things.
2. **Biosphere:** Anywhere on earth that living things may exist. From the deepest depths of the ocean to high in the atmosphere.
3. **Biogeochemical Cycle:** the movement (or cycling) of matter through a system.
4. **Reservoir:** a place where anything is collected or accumulated in great amount.
5. **Combustion:** the act or process of burning.
6. **Decomposition:** Breakdown or decay of organic materials.
7. **Organic:** A compound that is derived from living things and contains carbon.
8. **Nitrogen Fixation:** any process of combining atmospheric nitrogen with other elements, either by chemical means or by bacterial action.
9. **Nitrification:** To treat or combine with nitrogen or compounds containing nitrogen.
10. **Denitrification:** To remove nitrogen or nitrogen compounds.
11. **Assimilation:** The conversion of absorbed food into the substance of the body. The total process of plant nutrition, including photosynthesis, and the absorption of raw materials.