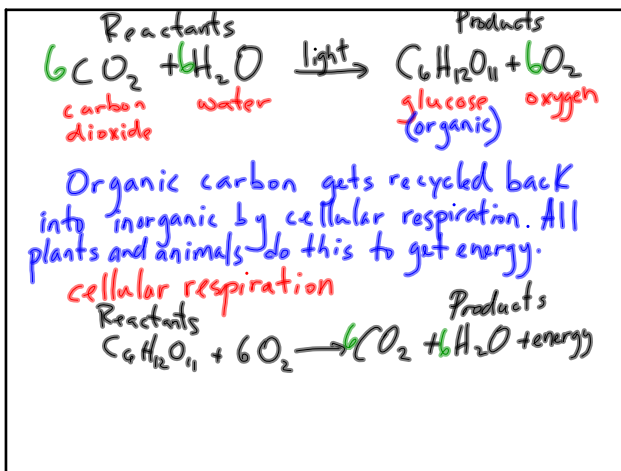


Carbon cycle

The Carbon Cycle
 Carbon is the key element in living things. Carbon is found as inorganic carbon in the atmosphere and dissolved in the oceans (CO₂).
 Photosynthesis is the process that converts CO₂ (inorganic) into organic carbon.

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Photosynthesis and respiration are complimentary processes. Since they cycle carbon from inorganic to organic and back.
 Decomposers also cycle carbon by breaking dead organisms. If this takes a long time the organisms are converted into fossil fuels like coal, oil or natural gas.

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Carbon is locked up in fossil fuels for a very long time except when we extract and use it for combustion (burning). This is the human element of the carbon cycle.
 Also, we are cutting down many trees which increases the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere (less photosynthesis).

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Nov 10-2:15 PM