

Engage: Exploring the Carbon Cycle

INSTRUCTOR:

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Learning Goals:

- Understand how carbon moves through the environment in the carbon cycle.
- Identify the role of photosynthesis and cellular respiration in the carbon cycle.

Activity:

1. Introduction:

- Look at the diagram below. It shows how carbon moves through the environment. Some parts are missing. Can you figure out where to place the missing parts to complete the cycle?

2. Thinking About Carbon:

- What do you already know about the carbon cycle?
- How do plants and animals contribute to the carbon cycle?
- **Sentence Frame:** "In the carbon cycle, I know that _____."



3. Connections:

- How is the carbon cycle connected to the way ecosystems work? Write your thoughts below.
- **Sentence Frame:** "I think the carbon cycle is connected to ecosystems because _____."

4. Completing the Cycle:

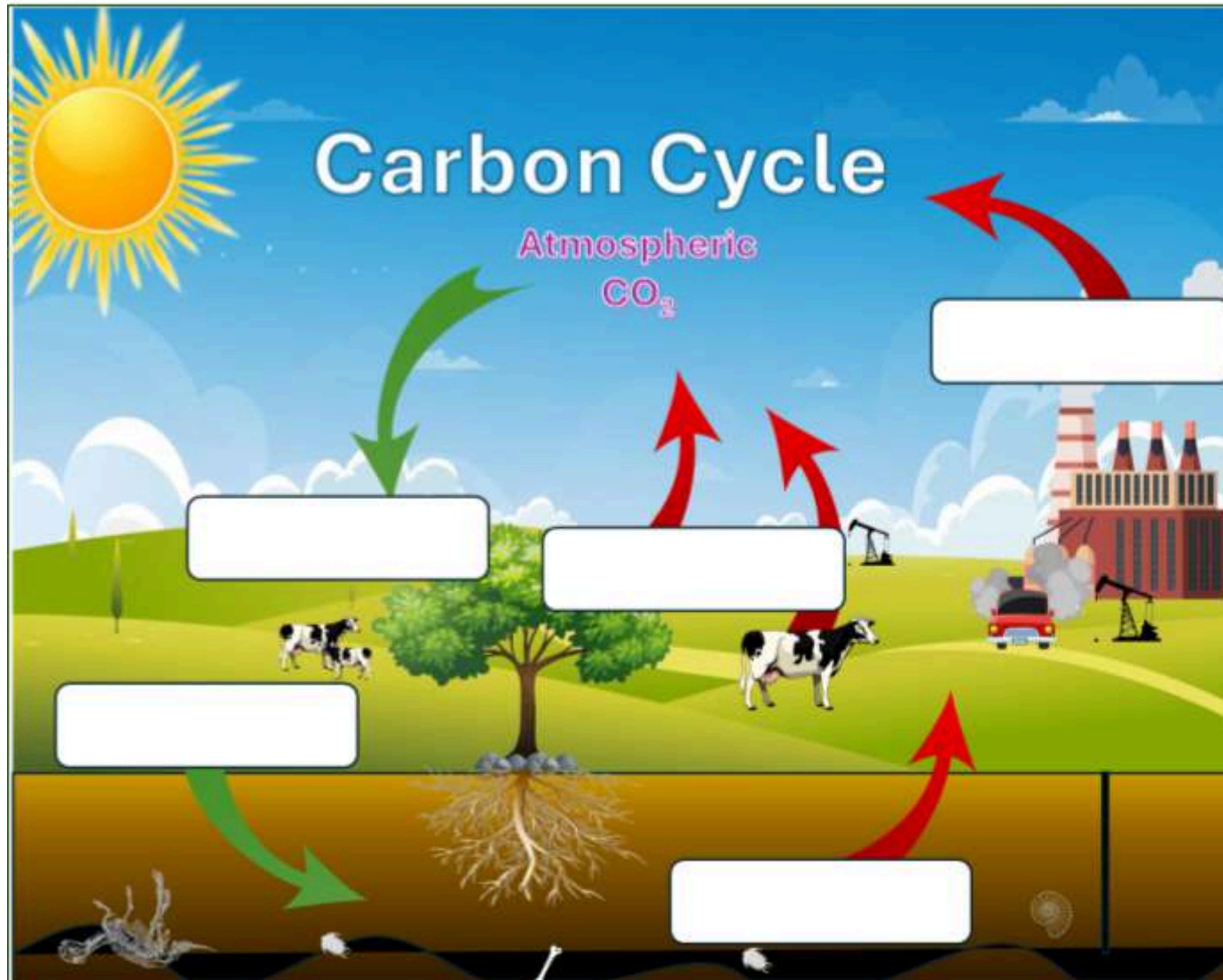
- Using the labels provided, complete the carbon cycle diagram. Place each label in the correct spot on the cycle.
- **Sentence Frame:** "I placed [label] here because _____."

5. Sharing Ideas: Turn and talk to another table group...

- Share your completed diagram with the class. Explain why each part is important in the carbon cycle.
- **Sentence Frame:** "I think [label] is important because _____."

6. Questions About Carbon:

- Write down any questions you have about carbon and the carbon cycle.
- **Sentence Frame:** "I wonder why _____."



Burning of Fossil Fuels

Releasing Carbon from Decayed Organisms

Photosynthesis

Respiration

Absorbing Carbon from decayed organisms

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Drag and Drop