



Explore the Carbon Cycle

Directions: Label each of the following as a **SOURCE** (releasing CO₂) or a **SINK** (absorbing CO₂).

Process	Source or Sink	Discussion
Animal Respiration	Source	(they release CO ₂ as they exhale)
Phytoplankton Growth	Sink	(CO ₂ and water -> sugars and starches)
Microbe Respiration	Source	(sugars and starches become CO ₂ and water)
Ocean Acidification	Sink	(CO ₂ dissolves and makes water more acid)
Plant photosynthesis	Sink	(CO ₂ and water -> sugars and starches)
Sediment Deposition (oceans, lakes)	Sink	(organic matter gets trapped in sediment)
Plant respiration	Source	(sugars and starches become CO ₂ and water)
Rock Formation	Sink	(CO ₂ becomes part of limestone)
Volcanic Eruption	Source	(CO ₂ is released from melted rock)
Fossil Fuel Formation	Sink	(dead plants and animals become coal and oil)
Shell Formation	Sink	(CO ₂ becomes part of shellfish or coral)
Fuel Combustion	Source	(CO ₂ is released as wood or fossil fuel burns)