

**The Phosphorous Cycle**

**Look at your phosphorous cycle your Data Pages & pages 83-87 to answer the following fill in the blanks & following questions.**

Phosphorus is an \_\_\_\_\_ in the molecule that carries \_\_\_\_\_ to plant cells & animal cells. In plants, phosphorus contributes to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. In humans a large amount of phosphorus is found in \_\_\_\_\_.

Phosphorus is not stored \_\_\_\_\_. Instead it is \_\_\_\_\_ that makes up \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the process of breaking down rock into smaller fragments.

Only through \_\_\_\_\_ will phosphorus be made available to the biotic community. Geologic uplift refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

1. What releases phosphate in the soil?
2. What is chemical weathering? What are some examples of this process?
3. What is physical weathering?

**Look at the Phosphorus Cycle Diagram in your Data Pages to answer the following questions.**

4. What do the numbers in the ovals represent?
5. a. How much phosphorus is stored in terrestrial organisms?  
b. How do decomposers contribute to phosphate levels?  
c. List 2 other ways that phosphate can enter the soil.