

**The Nitrogen Cycle**

**Look the Nitrogen Cycle in your Data Booklet pg. 11, your notes and textbook pages 78-82 to answer the following questions.**

1. What form is most of the nitrogen in the atmosphere in?
  
2. Why is  $N_2$  not easily used by plants and animals?
  
3.
  - a. What is Nitrogen Fixation?
  
  - b. What types of organisms use nitrogen fixation?
  
  - c. Where does nitrogen fixation occur?
  
4.
  - a. What is Nitrification?
  
  - b. Why is nitrification important to an ecosystem (hint how does it help plants)?
  
  - c. What do fertilizers provide for plants?
  
  - d. What form of nitrogen is returned to the atmosphere by plants?
  
  - e. What are the sources of increased nitrogen levels on agricultural land?
  
  - f. How does the application of fertilizer pose a problem for an ecosystem?