

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?