



Earth's Cycles



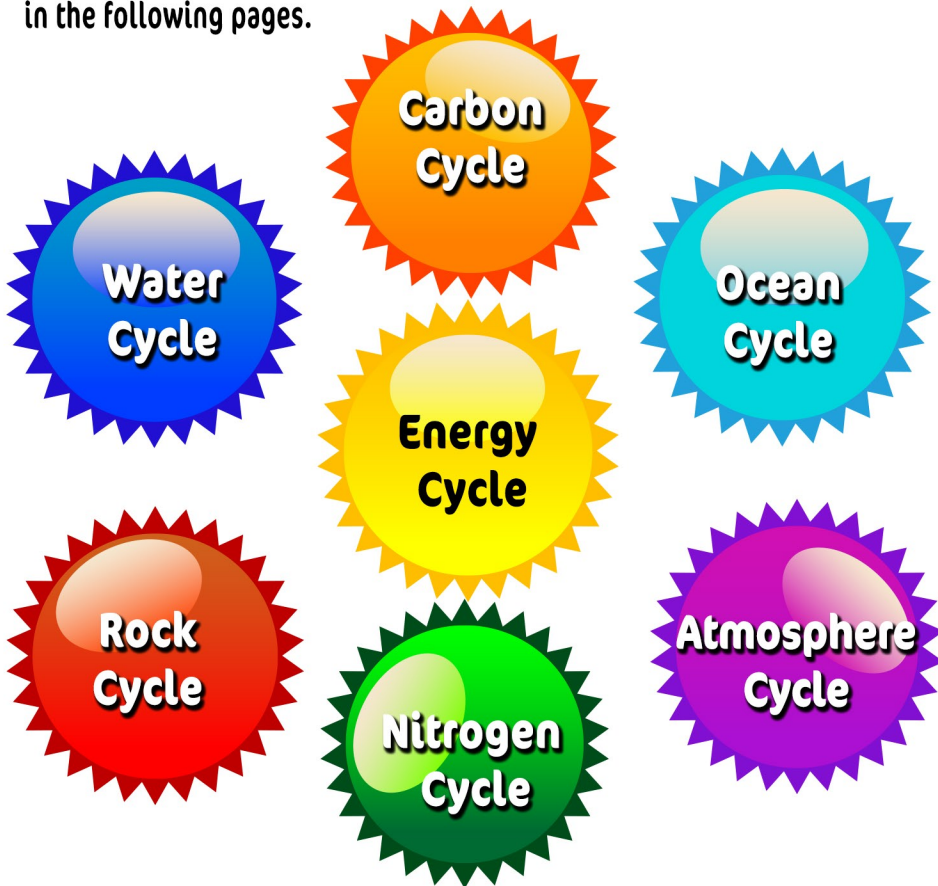
Each sphere is constantly changing in a process called cycling. A cycle is something that never stops. It has no beginning and has no end.

Earth is a system of matter (stuff) and energy (ability to do work). Earth is a closed system because matter does not enter or exit the system, but energy does.

The four spheres we discussed earlier are open systems. Matter and energy are constantly exchanged between the spheres. Matter and energy move between spheres in cycles. Through cycles, Earth recycles matter and energy.

Some examples of Earth's cycles are shown below. We'll learn about each of these Earth cycles in the following pages.

Scientists try to figure out how our planet works by studying Earth's cycles. Changes to Earth's cycles can cause changes in the spheres of our planet.



ADAPTATIONS

When natural cycles are changed, the plants and animals have to change, too. Making a change like this is called adapting.

Sometimes a change in a natural cycle is so big, that the animals and plants don't have the time to change. Or, they cannot make the changes they need to make.



LEARN MORE



UCAR Center for Science Education:

<https://eo.ucar.edu/kids/green/cycles1.htm>

My NASA Data, Earth System:

<https://mydasdata.larc.nasa.gov/basic-page/earth-system-matter-and-energy-cycles>