

# Quiz 13 - Ecosystem Ecology - Nutrient Cycling

**Due** Apr 14 at 11:59pm      **Points** 7      **Questions** 7  
**Available** until Apr 14 at 11:59pm      **Time Limit** 60 Minutes  
**Allowed Attempts** 2

## Instructions

This quiz asks questions about the carbon and nitrogen cycle and limiting factors.

You have 2 attempts at this quiz. The highest mark counts. You have 60 minutes to complete each attempt.

This quiz is due at 11:59 pm on Friday, April 14. I hope to cover nutrient cycling on Tuesday, the 11th (second to last class)

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## Attempt History

	Attempt	Time	Score
LATEST	<a href="#">Attempt 1</a>	6 minutes	7 out of 7

⚠ Correct answers will be available Apr 15 at 12pm - Apr 23 at 6pm.

Score for this attempt: **7** out of 7

Submitted Apr 12 at 10:29pm

This attempt took 6 minutes.

### Question 1

1 / 1 pts

An ecosystem consists of all the organisms of a particular region plus all of the abiotic components. Which of the following are abiotic factors that might be included when defining an ecosystem? (Select all that apply)

☒ Water availability

☐ Microorganisms

☒ Temperature

☒ Nutrient availability

☐ Biodiversity

## Question 2

1 / 1 pts

Plants are primary producers (autotrophs = "self-feeders"). If a large proportion of the plant species in a given ecosystem were removed, then the net primary productivity (NPP) and biomass of that ecosystem would likely:

☒ Decrease

☐ Increase

☐ Stay the same

☐ Plants are not involved in NPP

## Question 3

1 / 1 pts

How does carbon from the atmosphere enter into an ecosystem?

☒ It is added or "fixed" by photosynthesis in plants

☐ Burning of fossil fuels

☐ Through decomposition (mostly occurring in the soil)

☐ Through erosion

- ☐ Via human impacts, such as deforestation

#### Question 4

1 / 1 pts

How is carbon released from living organisms back to the atmosphere?

- ☒ Cellular respiration
- ☐ Photosynthesis
- ☐ Burning of fossil fuels, coal, wood or peat
- ☐ Erosion

Cellular respiration releases carbon that has been incorporated into living tissue, back to the atmosphere. This happens via any living organism. Burning of fuels releases CO<sub>2</sub> from inactive geological reservoirs made from long-dead organisms.

#### Question 5

1 / 1 pts

Match the following terms with their definitions:

**Decomposer**

Organisms that feed on d▼

**Primary consumer**

Organisms that feed on li▼

**Tertiary consumer**

Organisms that are predat

**Producer**

Organisms that synthesiz

### Question 6

1 / 1 pts

Which of the following is true about the global nitrogen cycle?

- ☒ The main form of nitrogen on Earth is nitrogen gas ( $N_2$ )
- ☐ The only usable form of nitrogen for plants is  $N_2$
- ☐ Nitrogen (in the form of  $N_2$ ) is ~78% of the atmosphere, meaning it is an abundant and non-limiting nutrient in all ecosystems

### Question 7

1 / 1 pts

Which of the following is/are true about nitrogen?

- ☒ Nitrogen can be limiting factor for plant growth in some ecosystems
- ☒ If nitrogen is limiting, adding more nitrogen to the ecosystem can increase plant growth.
- ☐ If nitrogen is not limiting, adding more nitrogen to an ecosystem will increase plant growth
- ☒ Human are overloading many ecosystems with nitrogen due to the burning of fossil fuels and the production of fertilizers.

Quiz Score: **7** out of 7