



Carbon cycle: where is this crucial carbon?



- Q 1. What do living things need in order to grow?
- Q 2. Where do plants get their food from?
- Q 3. Which plant matter did you see being burned? What was left over after each one was burned?
- Q 4. Where do animals get their food from?
- Q 5. Which animal matter did you see being burned? What was left over after each one was burned?
- Q 6. What happens to food in the body?
- Q 7. Where did the carbon in all the objects you have seen burned come from originally?
- Q 8. What happens to carbon (in the carbon cycle)?



This is one of a series JESEI activities aiming to teach students about the nature of carbon. In this activity the teacher burns a range of materials over a Bunsen flame, forming charcoal, to illustrate that they contain carbon. Class discussions lead to the final question: What happens to carbon?

Carbon is incorporated into living things, passes along the food chain, some is breathed out by animals and returns to the atmosphere, and some is “locked up” in animals and plants until they die and decompose. Some locked up for a very long time when plants and animals are fossilised and forms rocks like coal and limestone.

Activity details available at:

<https://geohubliverpool.org.uk/jesei/carbon%20cycle%204.htm>