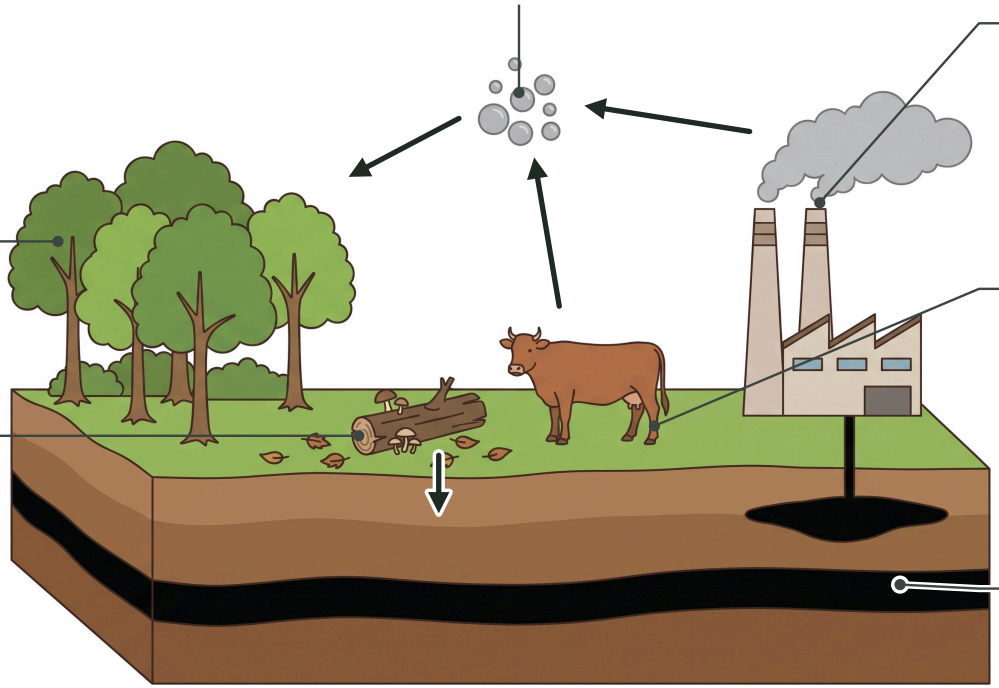
THE CARBON CYCLE

ECOSYSTEMS *What each part does*

The carbon cycle is how carbon moves between the air, living things and the ground.

The gas in the air that plants take in and animals breathe out.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere



Photosynthesis

Plants use sunlight to make sugar from water and a gas they take from the air.

Decomposition

The process in which dead plants and animals break down.

Combustion

Burning. It quickly releases the carbon stored in a fuel.

Respiration

Living things break down food for energy and give off carbon dioxide.

Fossil fuels

Coal, oil and natural gas, formed underground over millions of years.