

Key term	Definition
atmosphere	The mixture of gases surrounding the Earth.
carbon cycle	The carbon cycle shows carbon sinks, and summarises how carbon and its compounds enter and leave the atmosphere and these sinks.
carbon sink	Areas of vegetation, the ocean or the soil, which absorb and store carbon. Carbon and its compounds may remain in carbon sinks for many years.
climate change	A long-term change in weather patterns.
combustion	A chemical reaction in which a substance reacts quickly with oxygen and gives out light and heat. Also called burning.
electrolysis	Using electricity to split up a compound into its elements.
extraction	Separation of a metal from a metal compound.
fossil fuel	A fuel made from the remains of animals and plants that died millions of years ago. Fossil fuels include coal, oil, and natural gas.
global warming	The gradual increase in the average surface temperature of the Earth.
greenhouse effect	When energy from the Sun is transferred to the thermal energy store of gases in Earth's atmosphere. The greenhouse effect keeps the surface of the Earth warmer than it would otherwise be.
greenhouse gas	A gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect, such as carbon dioxide.
mineral (chemistry)	Naturally occurring metals, and their compounds.
natural resources	Materials from the Earth, its atmosphere, and the oceans, which act as raw materials for making a variety of products.
ore	A naturally occurring rock that contains enough of a mineral to make it worth getting the mineral – and then the metal it includes – out of the rock.
photosynthesis	The process plants and algae use to make their own food, glucose. In photosynthesis, carbon dioxide and water react together to make glucose and oxygen.
recycling	Collecting and processing a material so that it can be used again.
respiration	The process that transfers energy in plants and animals. In respiration, glucose reacts with oxygen to make carbon dioxide and water.