

# Phosphorus Cycle

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# Phosphorus Cycle

Over time, rain and weathering cause rocks to release \_\_\_\_\_ ions and other minerals. This inorganic phosphate is then distributed in soils and water. Plants take up \_\_\_\_\_ phosphate from the soil. The plants may then be \_\_\_\_\_ by animals. Once in the plant or animal, the phosphate is incorporated into \_\_\_\_\_ molecules such as DNA. When the plant or animal dies, it \_\_\_\_\_, and the organic phosphate is returned to the soil. Within the soil, organic forms of phosphate can be made available to plants by bacteria that break down organic \_\_\_\_\_ to inorganic forms of phosphorus. This process is known as mineralisation. Phosphorus in soil can end up in waterways and eventually oceans. Once there, it can be incorporated into sediments over \_\_\_\_\_.