

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 _____.