

## Section 2.2

# Nutrient Cycles in Ecosystems

## Before You Read



### 1. Words to Know

Directions: Match the correct definition to the term on the left.  
Scan pages 68 – 87 to find the definitions.

Words to Know	Definition
_____ cellular respiration	A. a chemical reaction that converts solar energy into chemical energy
_____ denitrification	B. soil particles and decaying and dead organic matter accumulate in layers on the ground or at the bottom of oceans and other large bodies of water
_____ nitrification	C. the process of breaking down rock into smaller fragments, which in one example releases phosphorous into the soil
_____ nutrients	D. chemicals that are required for plant and animal growth and other life processes
_____ photosynthesis	E. bacteria convert nitrates back into nitrogen gas as a part of the nitrogen cycle
_____ sedimentation	F. the process where ammonium is converted into nitrates, which are then used by plants which do not have nitrogen-fixing bacteria
_____ weathering	G. the process in which both plants and animals release carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere by converting carbohydrates and oxygen into carbon dioxide and water

---

## 2. Predicting the Main Ideas of Section 2.2

Directions: Scan pages 68 – 87 looking at the pictures and titles within this section. Predict five things you think you will learn in this section.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_