

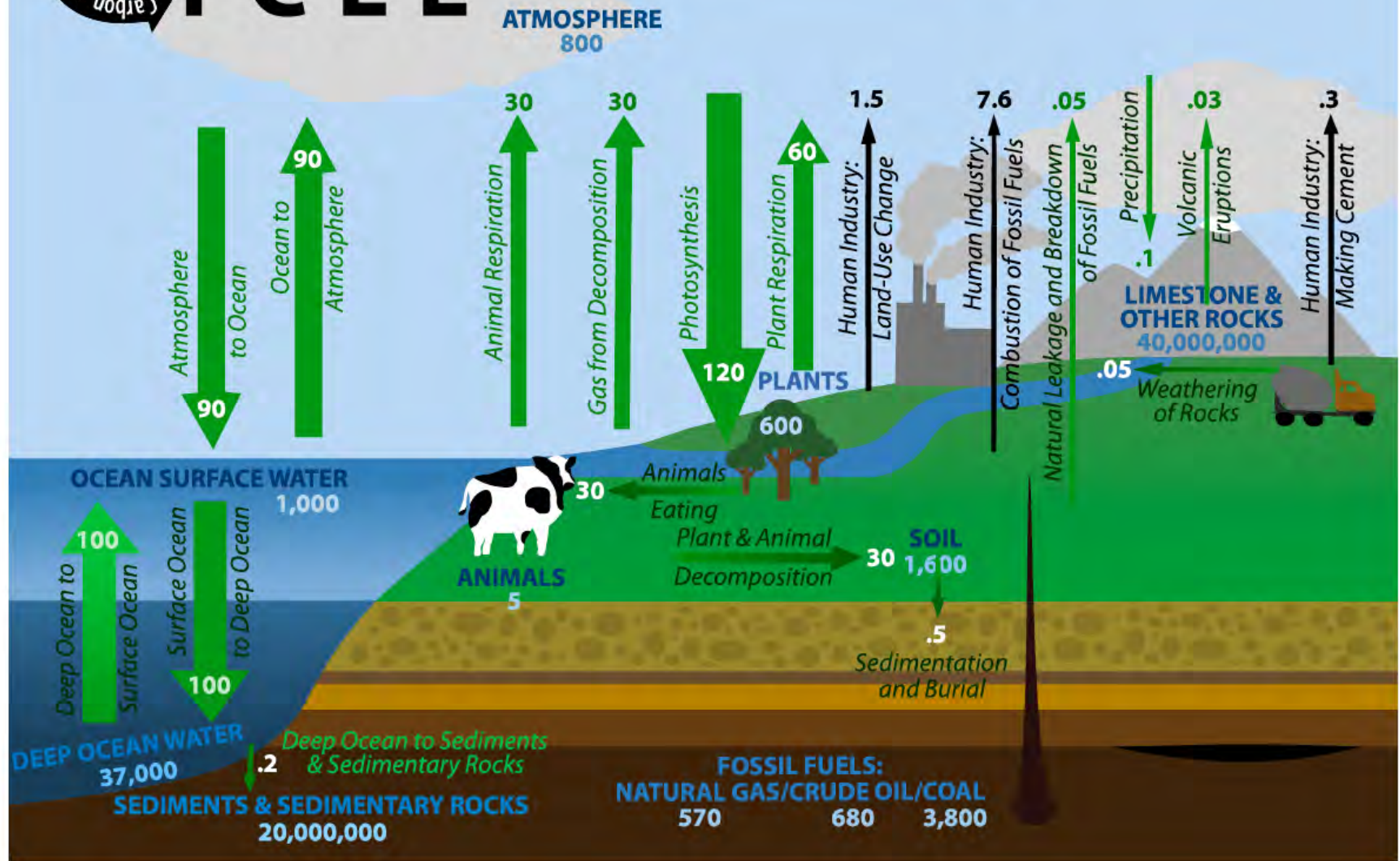
Anthropogenic Effects on Carbon Flows and Reservoirs



THE CARBON CYCLE

Carbon measured in gigatons.

Reservoirs | Natural Flows | Human Industry Flows
 Natural Flows into Atmosphere | Flows out of Atmosphere
 All Flows into Atmosphere | All Flows



Reflect on the learning experience as you engage in the activity

- What do you think the specific content learning goals are for this activity?
- Which of the 5 Foundational Ideas on Learning were addressed?
- What is one piece of science content you are taking away? Were you able to answer some of your questions?
- What additional questions about the content arise for you as you engage in the activity? Record your questions.

Carbon Cycle Cards

Each student group first receives a set of 11 Reservoir cards, followed by 16 Flow cards, and then 3 Flow/Human Industry cards in order to build a model of the carbon cycle.

Atmosphere
(800 gigatons)

Limestone & Other Rocks
(40,000,000 gigatons)
Residence Time: 800,000,000 years

Animals Eating
(30 gigatons per year)

Human Industry: Combustion of Fossil Fuels
(7.6 gigatons per year)

Flow

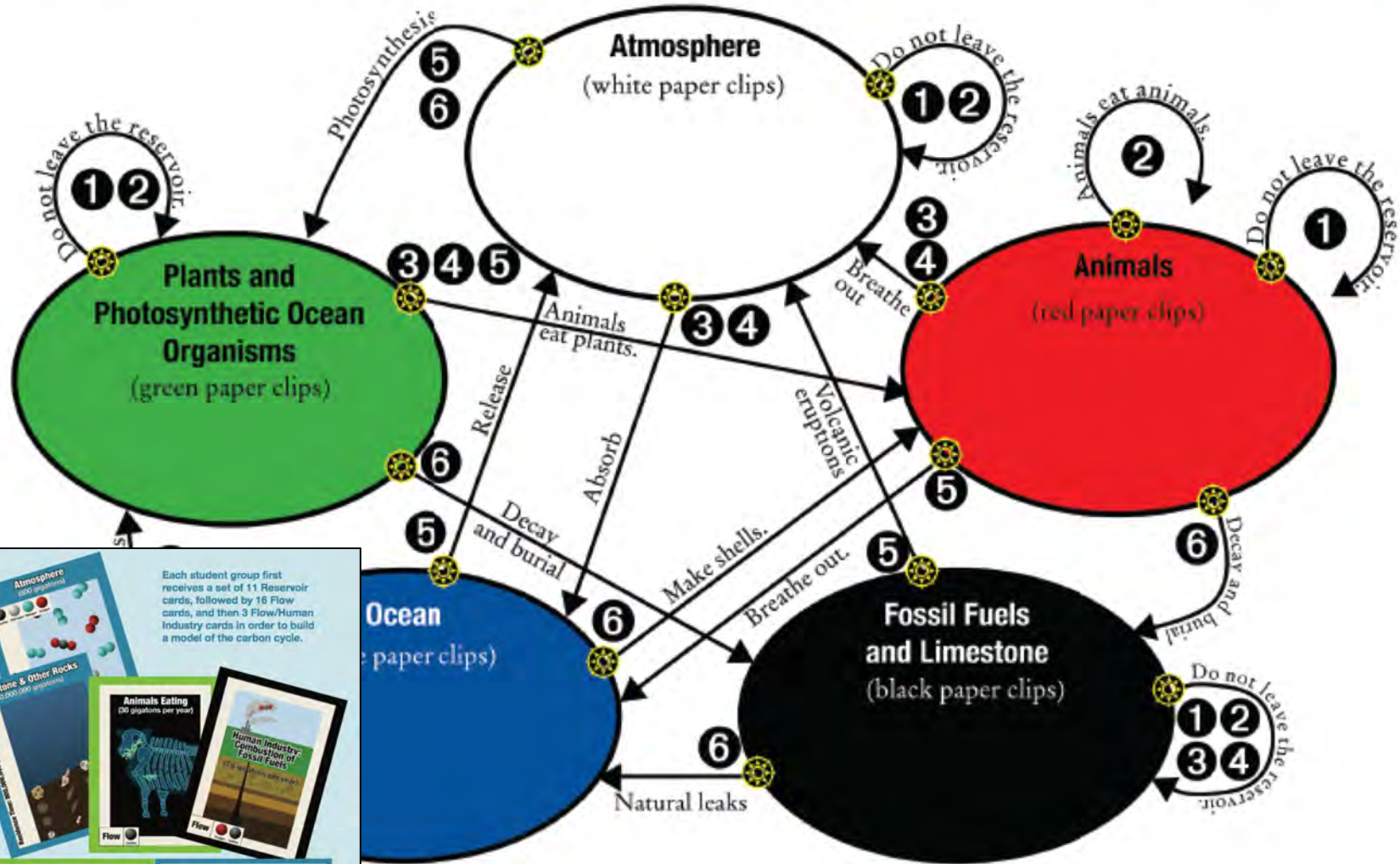
Reservoir

Plants

Plants are built of sugars ($C_6H_{12}O_6$) that they make through photosynthesis, using CO_2 and H_2O . The sugars are then changed into cellulose and other materials to make different plant structures. Every cell of every plant contains carbon.

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Carbon Cycle Cards—Ocean Sciences Sequence 2.7–2.8

Paper Clip Carbon Cycle Model #1



Each student group first receives a set of 11 Reservoir cards, followed by 16 Flow cards, and then 3 Flow/Human Industry cards in order to build a model of the carbon cycle.

Flow
Deep Ocean to Surface Ocean

Carbon salt remain in the deep ocean for hundreds of years. However, mixing can bring deep water with carbon back to the surface.

Reservoir
Plants

Plants are built of sugars (C₆H₁₂O₆) that they make through photosynthesis, using CO₂ and H₂O. The sugars are then changed into cellulose and other materials to make different plant structures. Every cell of every plant contains carbon.

Revisit carbon cycle in the Sydney Harbor ecosystem

1. Add to your sketch of a coastal ecosystem.
2. Label additional carbon reservoirs & flows you learned about
3. Which of your questions can you answer? Record new questions.



Turn & Talk

- Share your updated drawing and questions with a partner.
- Be ready to share your ideas, answers to questions, and evidence and reasoning with the whole group.

Small Group Reflection: About the learning experience

- How were you engaging with the materials and content in the activity to learn about the carbon cycle?
- Which of the 5 Foundational Ideas on Learning were addressed?
- What did you learn about the carbon cycle? What do you think the content learning goal or purpose was for the activity?



What science concept learning goals might be addressed by this activity?

- This activity was designed to specifically address the common misconception that Earth is getting more carbon.
 - No new carbon is entering the system, but rather it is cycling more quickly between the reservoirs.
- Human activities have taken carbon which was stored long-term in the fossil fuel reservoirs and caused it to flow much more rapidly than it naturally would into the atmosphere and ocean reservoirs.
- Using the carbon cycle cards provided the opportunity to work together to learn more about the carbon cycle, while also enabling learners to realize what they individually know and don't know about the carbon cycle.

Quick Write: 3-2-1

What I want to remember

- What are **3 things you learned** that you specifically want to remember?
- What are **2 things you did** in the activity that helped you to learn those things?
- What **1 question** are you still wondering about?

Carbon Cycle Simulation

