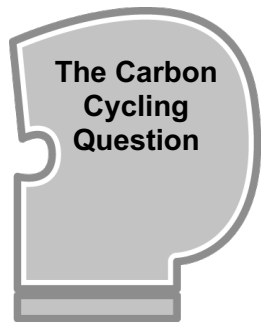


3.6 Explanations Tool for Ecosystems: Why does the meadow ecosystem need so much grass to support so few foxes?

In a stable meadow ecosystem, which pools are carbon atoms in?

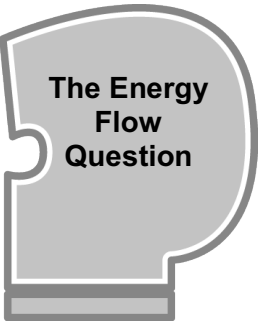


What processes are causing carbon atoms to move from one pool to another?



Why are there more carbon atoms in the producer pool than in the herbivore and carnivore pools?

Sunlight is the only source of energy for the meadow ecosystem. How is that light energy transformed in the meadow ecosystem?



Explain in words: Why does the meadow ecosystem need so much grass to support so few foxes? (Answer on the back)

Use this Explanations Tool to help guide your written explanation, being sure to answer the first three of the Four Questions.

Remember: **Atoms last forever** (if atoms leave one pool, they must enter another).