

Name _____

Date _____

Exploring the Nitrogen Cycle

During this activity you are a nitrogen atom, discovering the different locations that nitrogen exists in ecosystems. For each step along the journey, write down where you start, what happened to you, where you went, and the chemical formula. Each person in the class will follow a different route. Sometimes, you will get 'stuck' at a particular station and you will remain there for one turn. Write down everything that happens so that you have an accurate record of your journey.

The first line is an example.

Trip	Starting location	What happened?	Where you went:	Formula and name:
Ex	Dead plants and animals	The wood burned and I was released into the atmosphere	Atmosphere	N ₂ O Nitrous oxide
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Summarize the processes you took as a nitrogen atom on the back of this paper.

KEY:N₂ = nitrogen gasNH₃ = ammoniaNO₃ = nitrateN₂O = nitrous oxideNH₄ = ammoniumNO₂ = nitrite