

Blackline Master 7-3

A Carbon Journey



Carbon is on the move!

All organic matter contains carbon. Those berries you ate for lunch? They were full of carbon gathered from the atmosphere transformed through the process of photosynthesis. You are full of carbon.

Every time you eat, you ingest carbon and when you exhale you release carbon in the form of carbon dioxide created through cellular respiration. When a living organism dies the carbon goes into the soil or back into the atmosphere. Sometimes, if carbon is trapped under ground for a very, very, very long time, it can become oil, coal or natural gas.

Becoming a Carbon Atom

In this activity, you will take the role of a carbon atom and set off on a journey to different stations. The stations represent different locations where carbon can be found and stored.

At each station a random roll of dice will determine what happens next. Will you gain powers of invisibility as you are absorbed into the atmosphere? Will you be trapped for millions of years as oil or coal deep beneath the earth's surface or will you be swallowed by an animal only to be expelled a short while later?

Record your transformation in a Travel log. As you reach your destinations, take a minute to imagine what you would see while there and how you feel, then record what you see and feel in your travel log. Roll the dice and follow the directions on the sheet to move to the next location.