

the nitrogen cycle

2. Why is the nitrogen in your cycle important to living things?

Nitrogen makes amino acids that combine form proteins, and nucleic acid.

3. Where is the largest reservoir of your element?

The largest reservoir is in the earth's atmosphere.

4. List and explain the key steps of your cycle.

1st step is nitrogen fixation, this means bacteria converts nitrogen gas into ammonia. 2nd step is nitrification the bacteria gain energy through these conversions, both of which require oxygen to occur. 3rd step is assimilation is the process by which plants and animals incorporate the NO_3^- and ammonia formed through nitrogen fixation and nitrification. 4th step is ammonification is the conversion of organic nitrogen into ammonia. 5th step is denitrification, it is other bacteria to obtain energy by converting nutrients into nitrogen gas, which is released into the atmosphere.

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What are some human impacts on your cycle?

Humans add nitrogen to the biosphere through the manufacture and use of fertilizers.