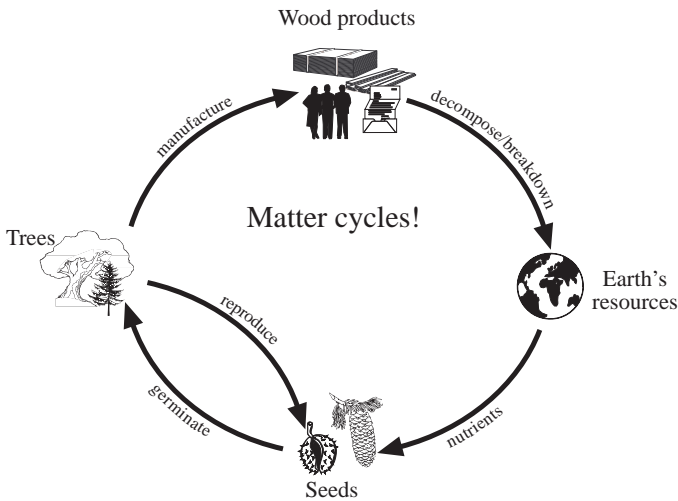


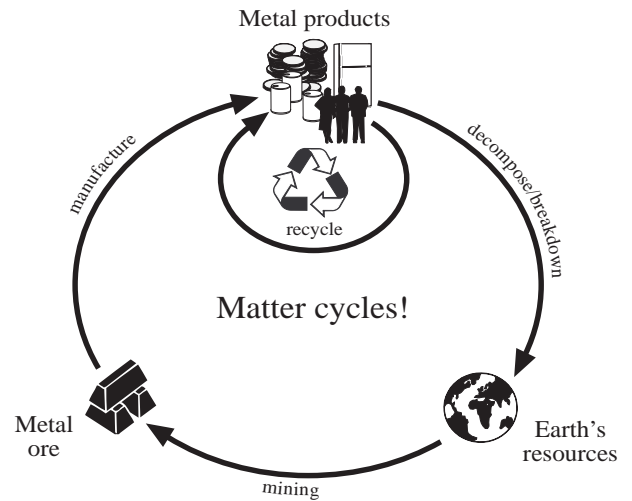


What Is Natural? Student Matter Cycles Page



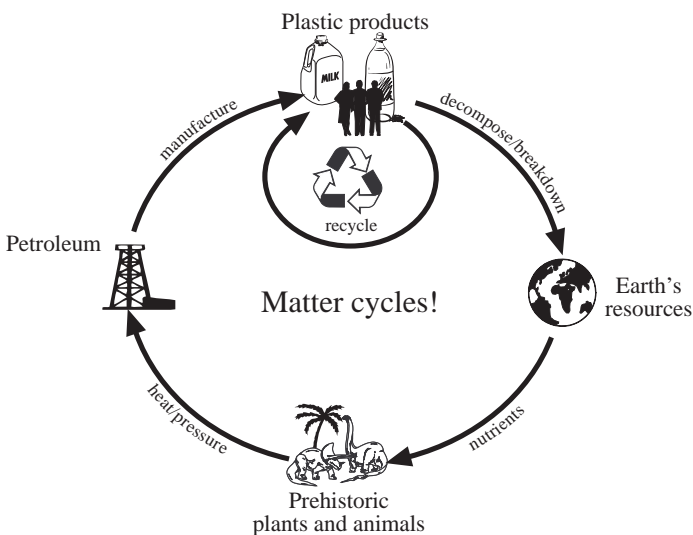
Explanation: The earth's resources (soil, air, water) provide the nutrients for seed growth. Seeds germinate into plants. Adult plants will reproduce, continuing the cycle of plant growth. We manufacture plants into various products. Wood products decompose and/or break down returning to the earth's resources once again.

Examples: paper, cardboard, lumber, furniture, pencil



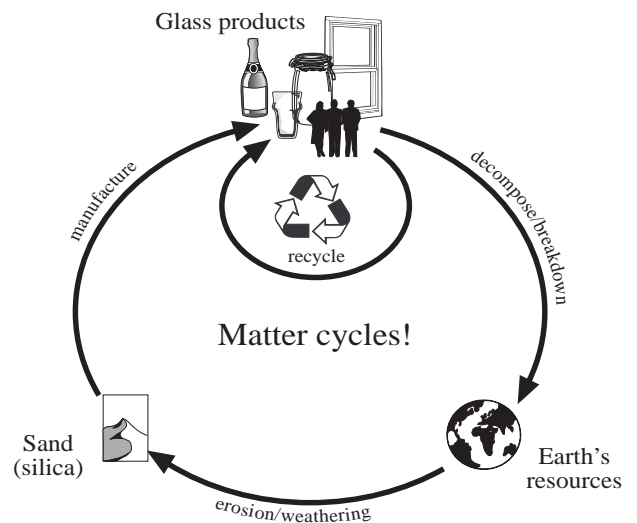
Explanation: Metal ore in the earth is mined and refined into various pure metals (copper, iron, gold, tin, zinc, aluminum, etc.). These metals are then manufactured into metal products. Many metals can be recycled for a period of time, but eventually all metals will decompose and/or break down returning to the earth's resources once again.

Examples: refrigerator, gold jewelry, tin can, aluminum soda can,



Explanation: The earth's resources (soil, air, water) provide the nutrients for plant growth. Plants provide energy for animals. Over time plants and animals die adding to the layering of the earth. Once buried in the earth, some prehistoric plants and animals (under the right conditions of heat and pressure) changed into petroleum. Today we mine petroleum and use it in the manufacturing of plastics. Many plastics can be recycled for a period of time, but eventually all plastics will decompose and/or break down returning to the earth's resources once again.

Examples: 2 liter bottle, milk jug, plastic bag, synthetic rubber, computers, play equipment



Explanation: Rocks and minerals in the earth's soil are eroded and weathered over time by water to produce sand. Sand is one of the main ingredients used in the production of glass products. Glass can be recycled for a period of time, but eventually all glass will decompose and/or break down returning to the earth's resources once again.

Examples: drinking glass, jar, bottle, window pane, computer screen,