**The Carbon Cycle**

**No carbon is lost or gained, but humans sure know how to MOVE IT**

1) Draw an illustration of the carbon cycle (there’s no right or wrong answer here, just give it a shot). Best to do it in pencil!

4) Now let’s build a model of the carbon cycle…

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reservoir of Carbon | Gigatons on Earth | Weight % Carbon | Gigatons of Carbon on Earth | Percent of the Carbon Cycle |
| Atmosphere | 1,200,000 | 0.063 % |  |  |
| Seawater (shallow) | 33,000,000 | 0.003 %  |  |  |
| Plants and Animals | 3,200 | 25 % |  |  |
| Soil | 53,000 | 3 % |  |  |
| Fossil Fuels | 5,000 | 80 % |  |  |

6) With your partner/group, make some basic observations of the model and how you or humans in general can make a difference in it (there’s more than 1 way!)

7) Think of some questions with your partner/group (1 each, but write all of them down) about how much carbon is in each reservoir, what process moves carbon between any of the reservoirs, how much carbon is moved in any of these processes, or how humans influence it. We will edit our carbon cycle drawings while answering these questions.