

## Some terms we use with trees <sup>Apr. 9</sup>



Coniferous Forest

vs

Deciduous Forest

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**Deciduous** = the dropping of a part that is no longer needed, in this case leaves

**Coniferous** = bearing pinecones, most of which are evergreen

**Evergreen** = retaining leaves year round, therefore remaining “forever green”

**Broadleaf** = a thin, broad leaf structure with a good deal of surface area

**Needle** = a thin, long modified leaf typical of conifers

**Hardwood** = another commonly used word for deciduous, broadleaf trees

**Softwood** = usually refers to coniferous trees

The spheres interact to effect Earth's systems and processes, and they are constantly changing each other.

For example, ocean currents (hydrosphere) affect air temperature (atmosphere): The Gulf Stream is a powerful water current in the Atlantic Ocean. It's warm water moderates the temperatures on the east coast of the USA.

Another example of how the spheres affect each other is through erosion. Erosion happens in the desert when wind (atmosphere) shapes the sand in the geosphere. Water (hydrosphere) can also shape land, such as in the formation of the Grand Canyon.



Humans have a huge impact on all spheres. Negative impacts, such as burning fossil fuels, pollute the atmosphere. Piling up our waste in landfills affects the geosphere. Pumping waste into the oceans harms the hydrosphere. And overfishing and habitat destruction can reduce the diversity of living things in the biosphere.

However, people everywhere are working to change things. Recycling efforts are increasing all over the world, and companies are finding new ways to reduce fossil fuels. In the US alone, people are recycling six times more than a generation ago.



## EXAMPLES OF EARTH'S 4 SPHERES



**Even though the island of Kauai in Hawaii gets more rain than almost any area on Earth, one side looks like a desert.**

The shape of the land (geosphere) effect where it rains (hydrosphere).

[This Is Plastics: How Are Plastics Made?](#)



**Every time you recycle, you are impacting all four spheres.**

Efforts such as recycling are important to keep all four of our spheres healthy.

[How Paper Is Made \(youtube.com\)](#)



[How Plastic is Made \(youtube.com\)](#)



**Erosion creates mushroom rocks when wind carries sand close to the ground.**

This is another example of how the atmosphere affects the geosphere. Sand carried by wind carves the bottom of the rock more than the top.

## Attachments

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NOTES - Ecological Organization.pdf

TEXT - Water and Nitrogen Cycles.pdf

Science 7 Rock Assignment 1.docx