

Prof. Jackson's Fun School

21st Issue, August 2026

What is carbon?



Today, we're planting young trees with Prof. Jackson.



2025 Laureate of the Blue Planet Prize
Prof. Robert B. Jackson

Carbon is one of the elements that make up the bodies of animals and plants.



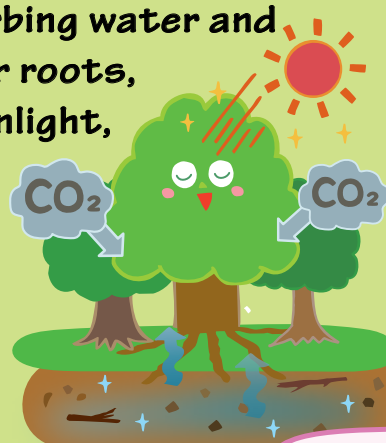
Is there carbon inside our bodies too?



Yes! Carbon is inside the bodies of people, animals, and also plants.

I hope they grow big.

Of course, they will! Trees grow by absorbing water and nutrients from their roots, getting plenty of sunlight, and taking in carbon dioxide from the air.



Isn't it amazing that something that makes up our bodies is also in the air?



It's in soil, too.

In soil?!

Hiii!

I've heard of carbon dioxide!

Carbon dioxide has an important element called carbon in it!



Ta-daa!



Microorganisms are teeny tiny creatures, right?

Spot on! They may be tiny, but they do a very important job. They slowly break down fallen leaves and the bodies of dead animals to turn them back into soil.



Hidden on pages 1-7 (one on each page) are Blue Planet Prize symbols in various colors! Can you find them all? Check out the answers in the comic on the Asahi Glass Foundation's website! [This →](#)

*Carbon dioxide
From Prof. Ramanathan's
Fun School

Microorganisms are so cool!



Carbon is everywhere!



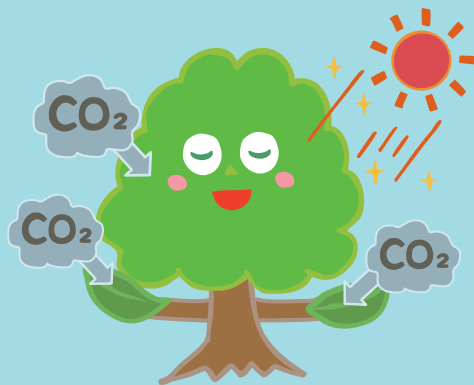
Yes, and carbon travels around the Earth, round and round.



How does it travel around?



Plants take in carbon dioxide from the air through their leaves and soak up sunlight to build their bodies through photosynthesis!

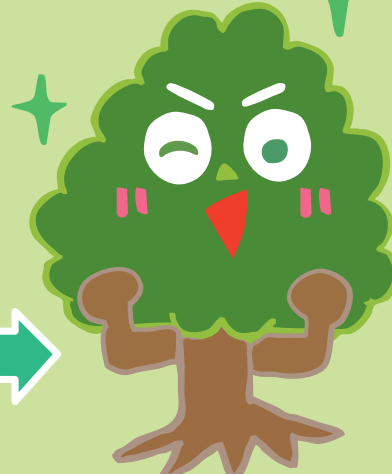


Like eating?

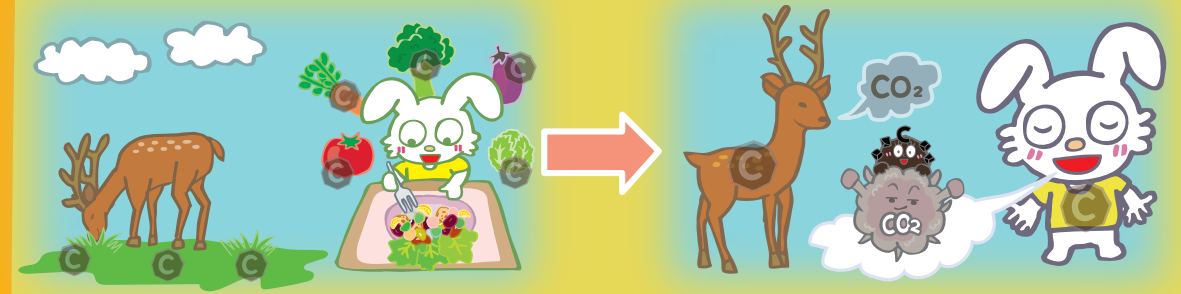


Exactly! Carbon dioxide is like food for plants. They store the carbon to build and grow their leaves, trunk, and roots.

So that's how trees grow big.



Yes. When animals and humans eat plants, the carbon moves into their bodies. Then, when they breathe out, they push out carbon dioxide, which goes back into the air.



Remember, microorganisms break down fallen leaves, dead plants, and dead animals. Some of that carbon goes back into the air and some stays in the soil.

So, carbon moves back and forth between the air, soil, plants, and animals.



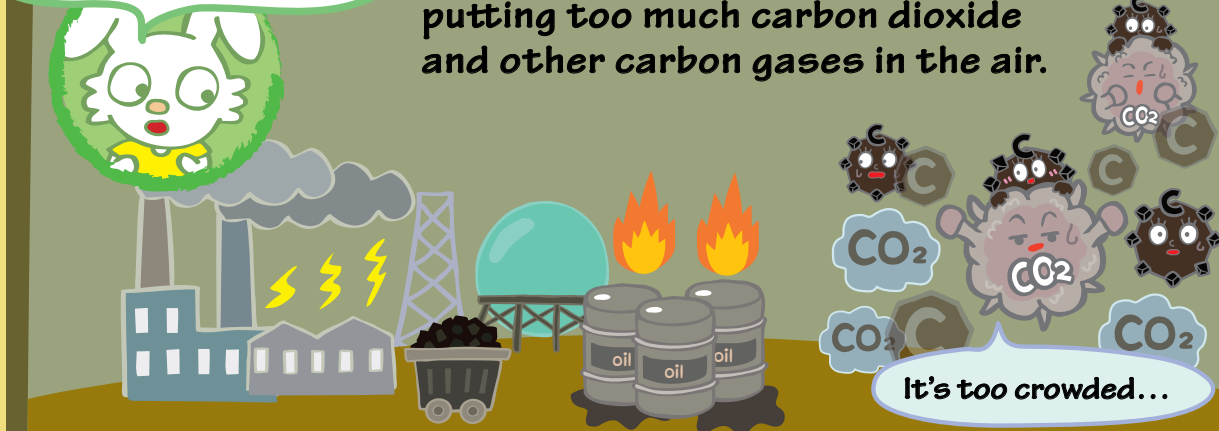
The way carbon travels around the Earth like this is called the carbon cycle. Just like we need our blood to flow through our bodies to stay healthy, it is important for carbon to keep traveling around properly so that plants and animals can live in a comfortable environment.



But lately, that balance is getting lost.

What happens when the balance is lost?

Today, humans are burning coal and oil and cutting down a lot of trees. This is putting too much carbon dioxide and other carbon gases in the air.



These are called greenhouse gases. They help keep the Earth warm, but if there are too many of them, the Earth gets too warm.

This causes global warming.

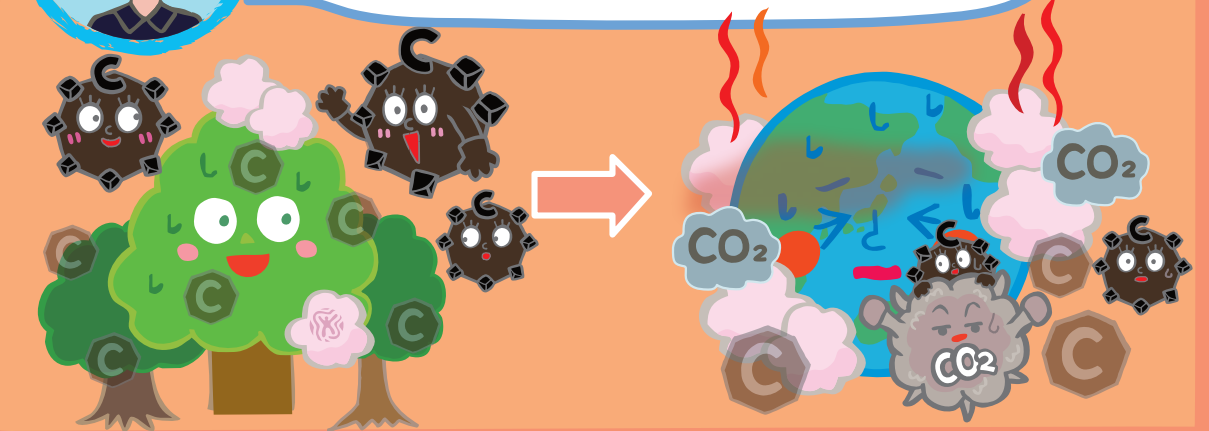


So too much carbon in the air is not good? But carbon travels around the Earth, round and round... What if it went somewhere else...?

Let's go this way!



Good point! Too much carbon in the air makes the Earth too hot.



But when plants and soil store carbon for us, they produce food and wood for us and help cool the Earth.



So trees and soil are very important!

Exactly. Forests and soil are very important places that store carbon for us.

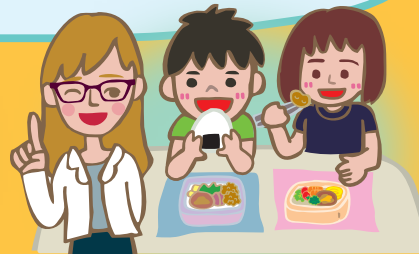




Is there anything
we can do to help?



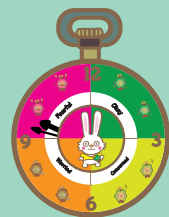
Of course!
You can help by planting trees,
taking care of forests, and not wasting food.
You can also talk to your friends, family, and
teachers to learn more.



Will the trees we planted
today store carbon too?



Yes! These small trees
will connect the air, soil,
and all living creatures
and help our trees and
soils grow.



Environmental
Doomsday Clock

Prof. Jackson's
Fun School
August 2026

af THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION
www.af-info.or.jp

**Did you find all the symbols?
Here are the answers!**



Today, we're planting young trees with Prof. Jackson.



2025 Laureate of the Blue Planet Prize
Prof. Robert B. Jackson

Carbon is one of the elements that make up the bodies of animals and plants.



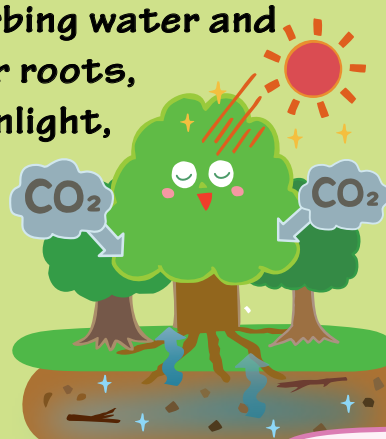
Is there carbon inside our bodies too?



Yes! Carbon is inside the bodies of people, animals, and also plants.

I hope they grow big.

Of course, they will! Trees grow by absorbing water and nutrients from their roots, getting plenty of sunlight, and taking in carbon dioxide from the air.



Isn't it amazing that something that makes up our bodies is also in the air?



It's in soil, too.

In soil?!

Hiii!

I've heard of carbon dioxide!

Carbon dioxide has an important element called carbon in it!



Ta-daa!



Microorganisms are teeny tiny creatures, right?

Spot on! They may be tiny, but they do a very important job. They slowly break down fallen leaves and the bodies of dead animals to turn them back into soil.



Remember, there are plant roots, fallen leaves, dead bugs, and the bodies of other living creatures in the soil. There are also bacteria and microorganisms that break them down.



Hidden on pages 1-7 (one on each page) are Blue Planet Prize symbols in various colors! Can you find them all? Check out the answers in the comic on the Asahi Glass Foundation's website! [This →](#)

*Carbon dioxide
From Prof. Ramanathan's
Fun School

Microorganisms are so cool!

Yes, and carbon travels around the Earth, round and round.

Carbon is everywhere!

How does it travel around?

Plants take in carbon dioxide from the air through their leaves and soak up sunlight to build their bodies through photosynthesis!

Like eating?

Exactly! Carbon dioxide is like food for plants. They store the carbon to build and grow their leaves, trunk, and roots.

So that's how trees grow big.

Yes. When animals and humans eat plants, the carbon moves into their bodies. Then, when they breathe out, they push out carbon dioxide, which goes back into the air.

Remember, microorganisms break down fallen leaves, dead plants, and dead animals. Some of that carbon goes back into the air and some stays in the soil.

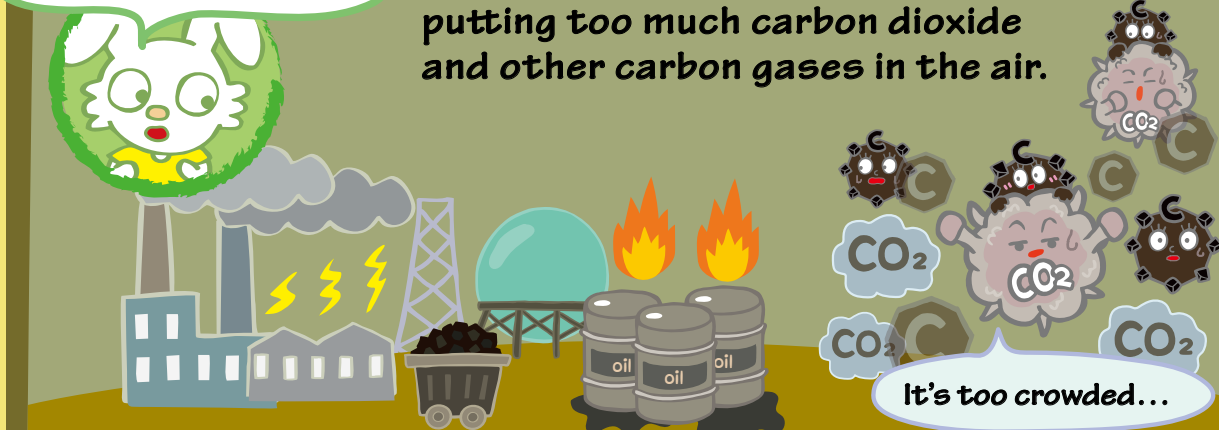
So, carbon moves back and forth between the air, soil, plants, and animals.

The way carbon travels around the Earth like this is called the carbon cycle. Just like we need our blood to flow through our bodies to stay healthy, it is important for carbon to keep traveling around properly so that plants and animals can live in a comfortable environment.

But lately, that balance is getting lost.

What happens when the balance is lost?

Today, humans are burning coal and oil and cutting down a lot of trees. This is putting too much carbon dioxide and other carbon gases in the air.



These are called greenhouse gases. They help keep the Earth warm, but if there are too many of them, the Earth gets too warm.

This causes global warming.

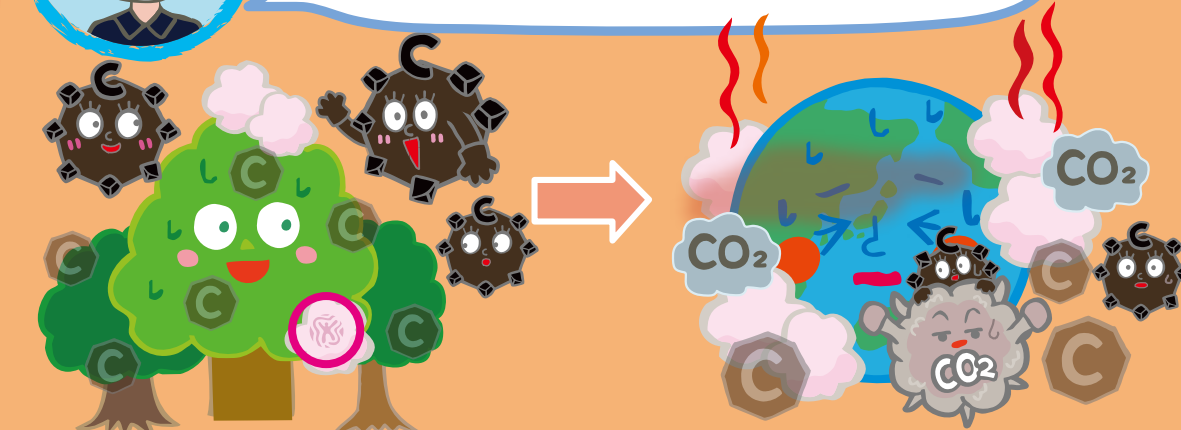


So too much carbon in the air is not good? But carbon travels around the Earth, round and round... What if it went somewhere else...?

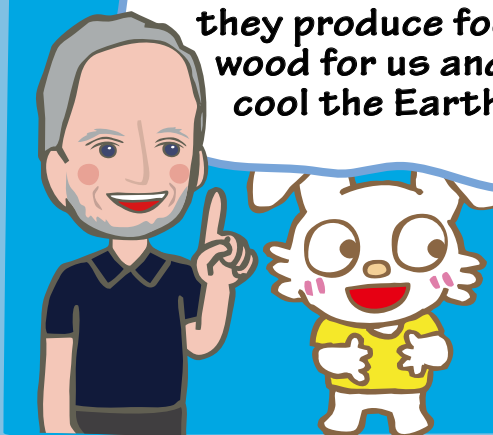
Let's go this way!



Good point! Too much carbon in the air makes the Earth too hot.



But when plants and soil store carbon for us, they produce food and wood for us and help cool the Earth.



So trees and soil are very important!

Exactly. Forests and soil are very important places that store carbon for us.

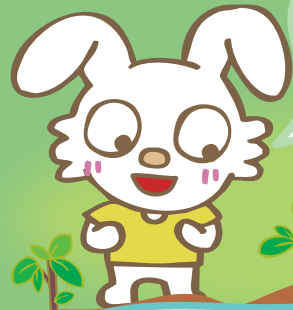
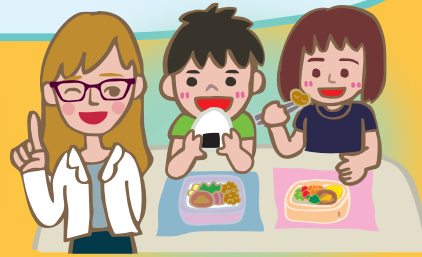




Is there anything
we can do to help?



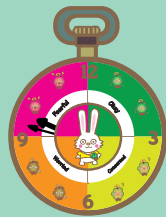
Of course!
You can help by planting trees,
taking care of forests, and not wasting food.
You can also talk to your friends, family, and
teachers to learn more.



Will the trees we planted
today store carbon too?



Yes! These small trees
will connect the air, soil,
and all living creatures
and help our trees and
soils grow.



Environmental
Doomsday Clock

Prof. Jackson's
Fun School
August 2026

af THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION
www.af-info.or.jp