

## KEY FACTS

- ONLY photosynthesis removes CO<sub>2</sub> from atmosphere
- CO<sub>2</sub> added back by: respiration, decomposition, combustion
- Decomposers (bacteria and fungi) break down dead matter → release CO<sub>2</sub> + mineral ions
- Fossil fuels: ancient carbon stored for millions of years — burning releases it rapidly
- ★ Carbon sinks: forests, oceans absorb more carbon than they release

## KEY TERMS

<b>Carbon sink</b>	Reservoir absorbing more carbon than it releases (e.g. forests, oceans)
<b>Decomposer</b>	Organism breaking down dead matter — releases CO <sub>2</sub> and mineral ions

■ EXAM TIP: ONLY photosynthesis removes CO<sub>2</sub>. All other processes ADD it. This is the most commonly reversed fact in ecology. Write it on your revision notes.