# Assignment Summary

For this assignment, you will construct a scientific model of the carbon cycle to show how carbon is recycled through an ecosystem. Once you have drawn your model on a poster board, you will write one or two paragraphs explaining how carbon is transferred within and between organisms and the environment.

Background Information

Carbon is one of six elements that are common to all living things. It is the basis for all life on Earth. It is an essential building block in the bodies of all living things, and it can combine with other elements to form many important compounds. Carbon continually flows between the atmosphere, land, water, and living things. This is called the carbon cycle.

Materials

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Large poster board * Markers, crayons, or colored pencils | * Scissors * Glue or tape |

# Assignment Instructions

**Step 1: Prepare for the project.**

1. Read through the guide before you begin so you know what you are expected to do during this project. Pay particular attention to the instructions you need to follow to create a model on your poster board.
2. If there is anything that is not clear to you, be sure to ask your teacher.

**Step 2: Gather materials for the model.**

1. Start with a blank poster board. Be sure to put your name on it.
2. You may either draw the parts of the carbon cycle or print images to construct a model on your poster board. Gather any drawing tools that you will need or print out any images you want to use.

**Step 3: Create a model of the carbon cycle.**

1. In your model, be sure to include carbon in the air, plants, animals, and soil. Start your model with carbon dioxide in the air.
2. Draw arrows indicating how carbon moves within and between organisms and their environment.
3. Include short phrases on your poster that summarize what occurs at each stage of the carbon cycle.

**Step 4: Write a paragraph describing the carbon cycle.**

1. Type one to two paragraphs describing the full carbon cycle. Be sure to use full sentences and proper grammar.
2. Ask your teacher where you should save your work. Your teacher may also have specific guidelines about the file name you should use.

**Step 5: Evaluate your project using this checklist.**

If you can check each box below, you are ready to submit your project.

* Is your name on your poster board?
* Did your poster show carbon in the air, plants, animals, and soil?
* Did you draw arrows indicating how carbon moves within and between organisms and their environment?
* Did you include short phrases on your poster to summarize what occurs at each stage of the carbon cycle?
* Did you write one to two paragraphs describing the full carbon cycle in full sentences?

**Step 6: Revise and submit your project.**

1. If you were unable to check off all of the requirements on the checklist, go back and make sure that your worksheet is complete. Save your project before submitting it.
2. Turn your poster board in to your teacher. Be sure that your name is on it.
3. When your typed paragraph is complete, return to the virtual classroom and use the “Browse for file” option to locate and submit this portion of your assignment.

**Step 7: Clean up your workspace.**

1. Throw away any trash.
2. Put away any materials that you used to create your poster.
3. Congratulations! You have completed your project.