

The Nitrogen Cycle Terminology

N_2 is the nitrogen gas in the atmosphere

Lightning: turns the N_2 into Ammonia, NH_3

Bacteria: turn the NH_3 into Nitrites, HNO_2

Nitrifying bacteria: turn the Nitrites into Nitrates, HNO_3

Plants: turn the Nitrates into proteins and DNA

Animals: eat the plants and turn plant protein into animal protein

Fungi and bacteria: turn animal waste, dead animals, and dead plants into Ammonia, NH_3

Denitrifying bacteria: turn Nitrates, HNO_3 , into atmospheric nitrogen, N_2

Nitrogen-fixing bacteria: turn N_2 into HNO_3

