

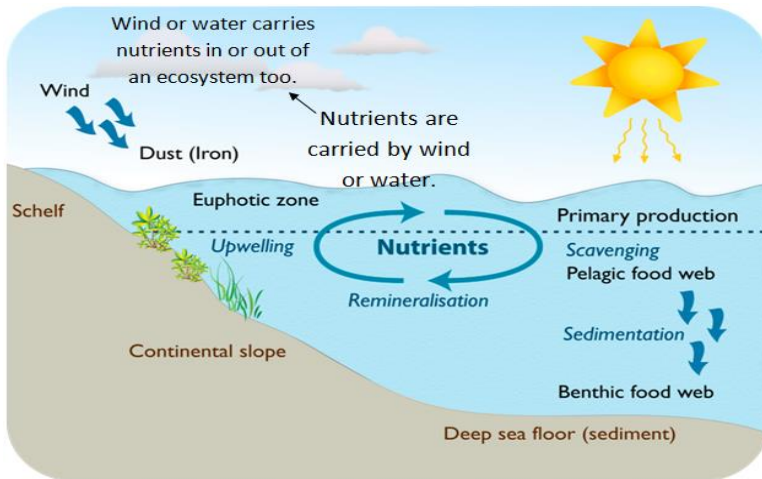
# Flow of Matter in Ecosystems

## Cycle of Matter

- Matter enters an ecosystem at any level and leaves at any level.
- Matter cycles freely between trophic levels.

### Study Tip

Look at the flowchart to get a better understanding of how matter flows in an ecosystem.



The *The path of matter and nutrients*

## Path of Matter and Nutrients

- **Nutrients** are ions that are crucial for organisms to live and grow.
- Nutrients come from rocks and minerals that have broken down.
- Nutrients are transferred by wind and water.
- **Decomposers** break down dead tissues into nutrients and carbon dioxide.

**Decomposers**  
• Organism that breaks down dead tissues into things like nutrients.

**Nutrients**  
• Ions that organisms need to live and grow.

**Sources**  
• Rocks and minerals break down to release nutrients.

## Concept Check

- Describe matter's ability to enter and exit trophic levels.
- Explain the relationship between nutrients and decomposers.