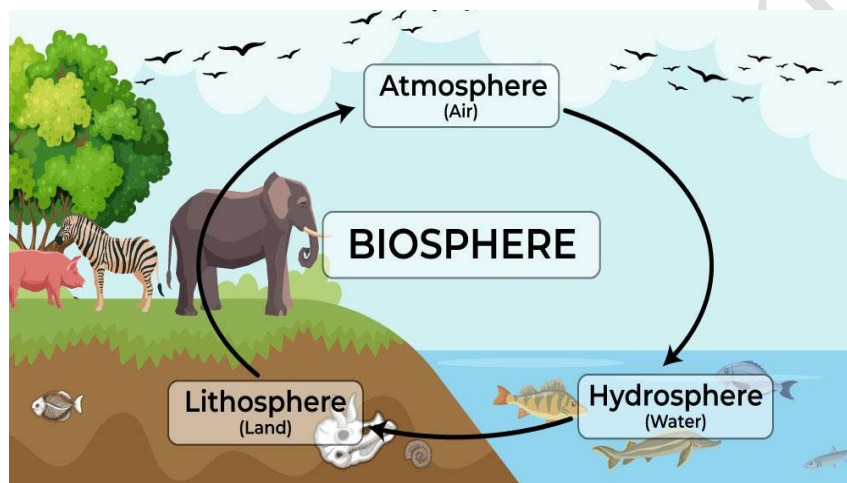


Biosphere:

The term "biosphere" was coined in 1875 by Austrian geologist **Eduard Suess**. Suess defined the biosphere as the place on Earth's surface where life exists. The definition of the biosphere has evolved to include the combination of all the factors that work together to sustain life and the processes involved in it. Some definitions limit the biosphere to the sum of all living organisms.

The biosphere is a narrow zone on the surface of the earth where soil, water, and air combine to sustain life. Life can only occur in this zone. The biosphere is the region where life exists, from the deep crust to the lower atmosphere. It includes all living organisms, such as plants, animals, and bacteria. The biosphere is also known as the ecosphere.



The two components of the biosphere are called the abiotic and the biotic. The abiotic, or non-living, portion of each ecosystem includes the flow of energy, nutrients, water, and gases and the concentrations of organic and inorganic substances in the environment. The second component is the biotic, or living organism, portion, which includes producers, consumers, and decomposers.