

How to study the carbon dioxide cycle in secondary schools

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Study the carbon dioxide cycle in secondary schools

Carbon is one of the most common element in the living-world.

CO₂ is the second major greenhouse gas, after water.

Photosynthesis is at the beginning of every food chain.

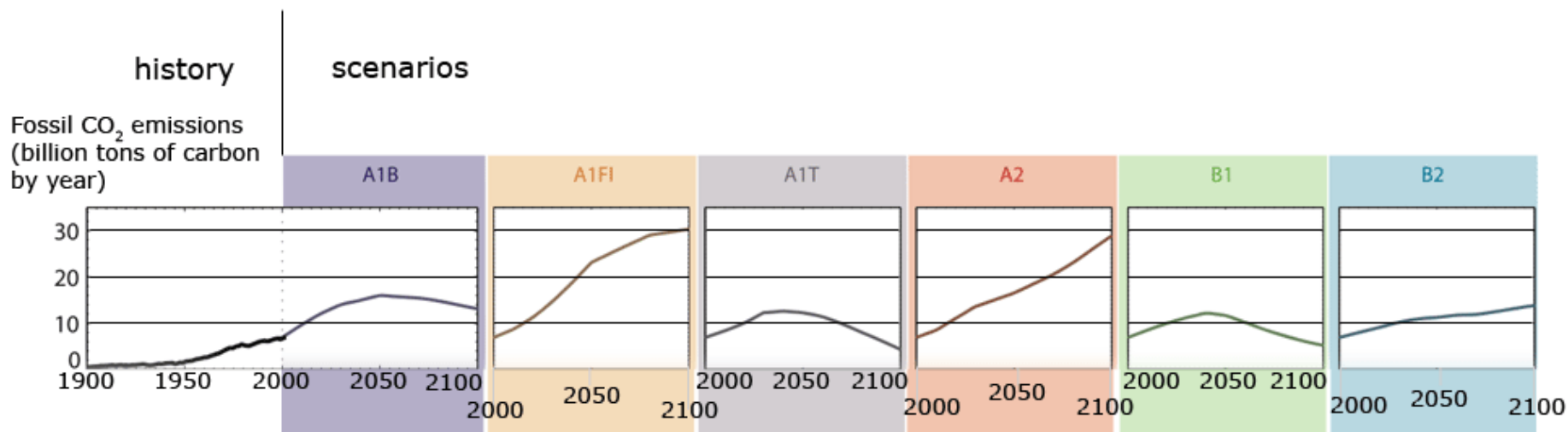
**Study of carbon cycle interests all disciplines
in secondary schools.**

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Let's begin with few calculations!

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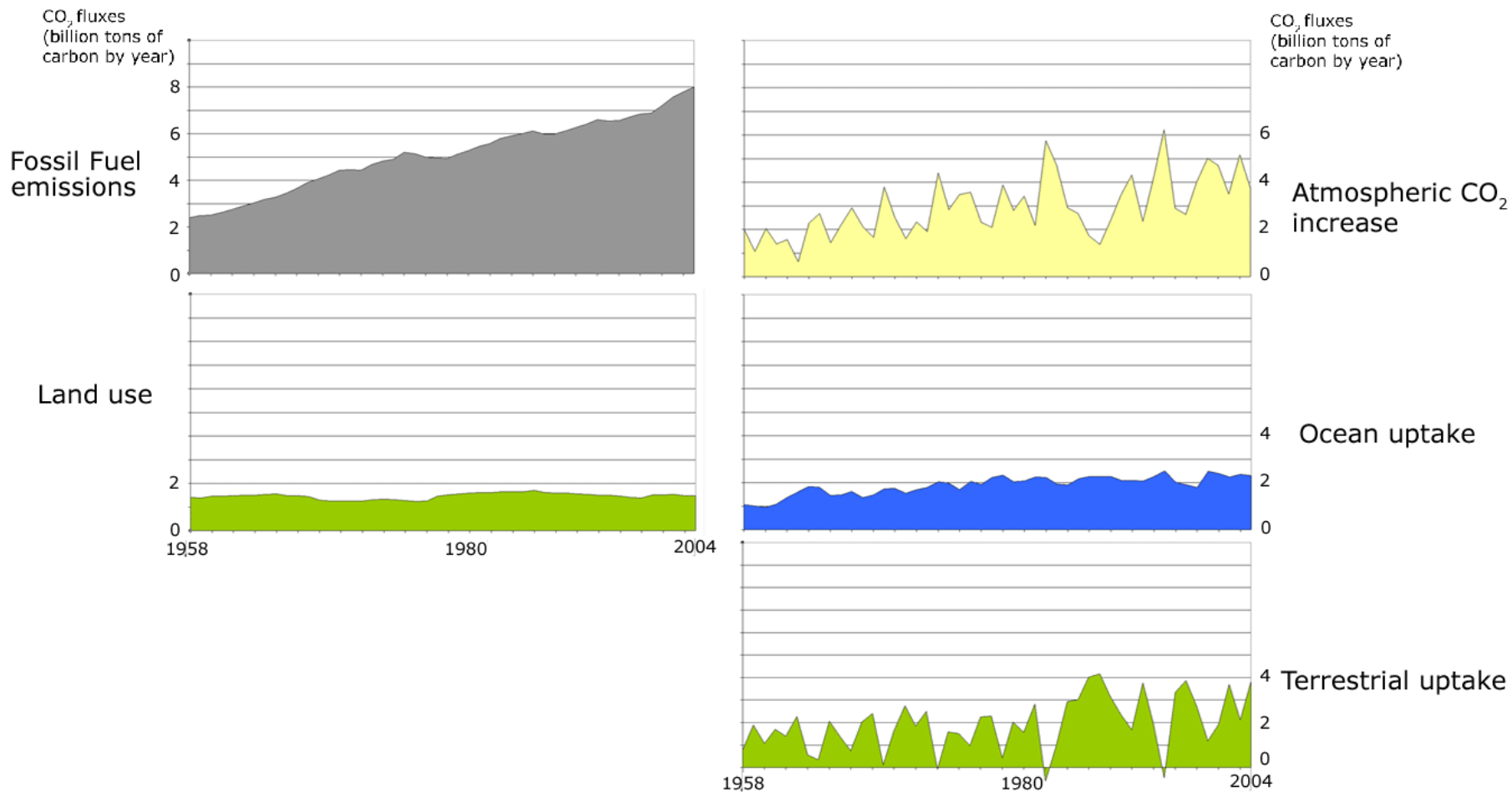
Fossil CO₂ emissions for six emission scenarios



Sources: IPCC working group I, chapter 10, Figure 10.26

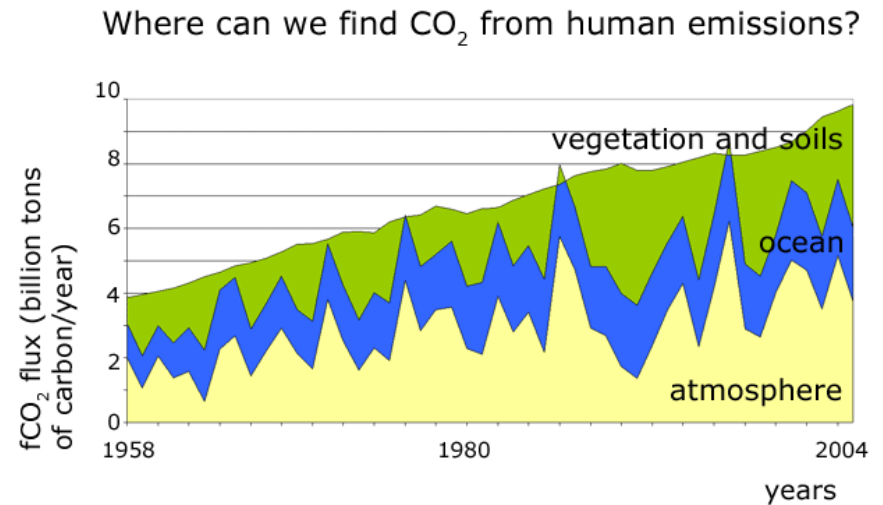
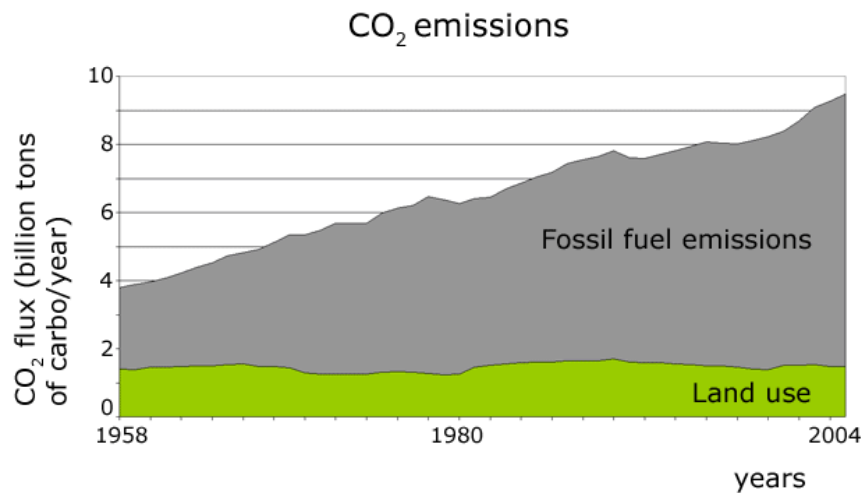
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Global carbon budget



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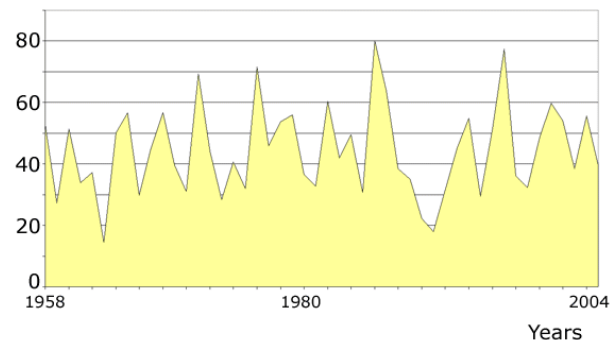
Global carbon budget



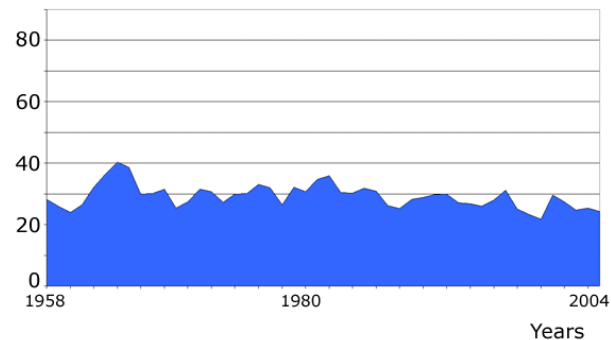
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Global carbon budget: relative part of sinks

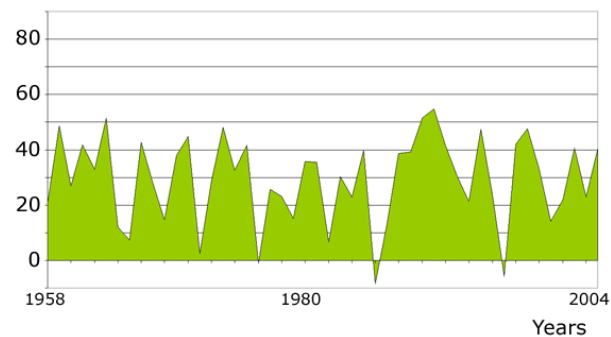
Atmospheric CO₂ increase by year in percentage



Ocean uptake by year in percentage



Terrestrial uptake by year in percentage



What will you do these three days?

- Working in groups
- With a CO₂ sensor and plants
- This afternoon:
 - Tests of your materials
 - Writing protocols
 - Beginning of experimentations
- Tomorrow afternoon:
 - Experimentations
- Wednesday morning:
 - Results, explanations, comments (plenary session)



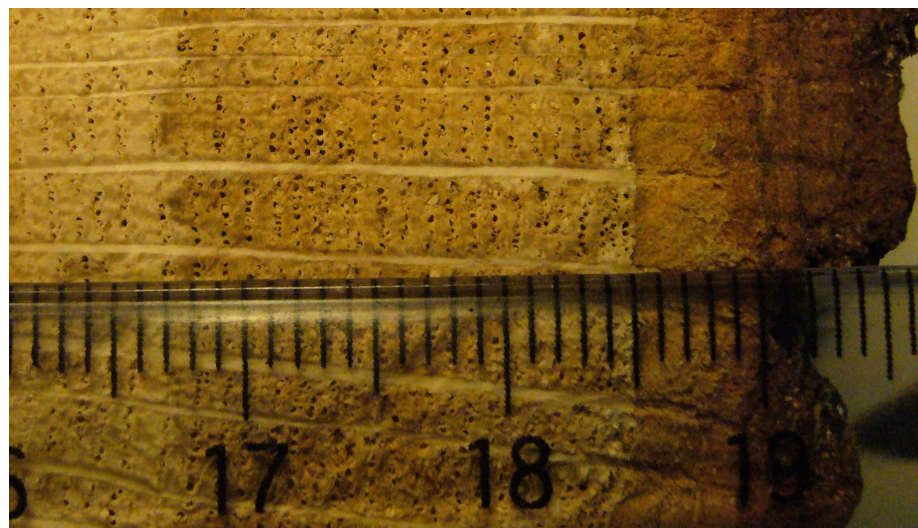
Subjects of thinking:

- How will vegetation react to a raise of temperature or atmospheric CO₂?
- Where are CO₂ sources and sinks?
- How does atmospheric CO₂ vary during one year, one day?
- Is the carbon cycle similar in North hemisphere and South hemisphere?

Other ways of work

(to discuss after the meeting or during breaks):

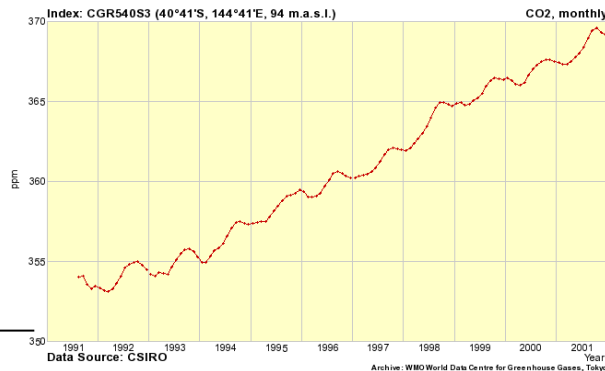
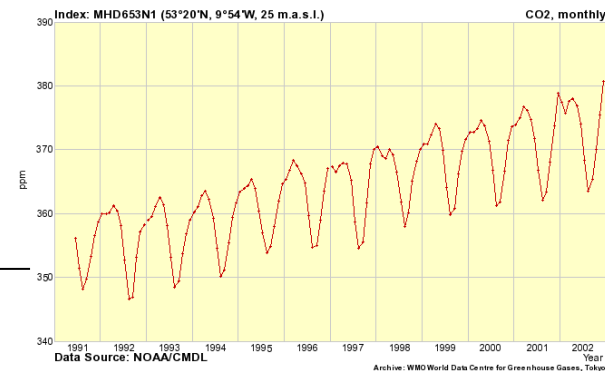
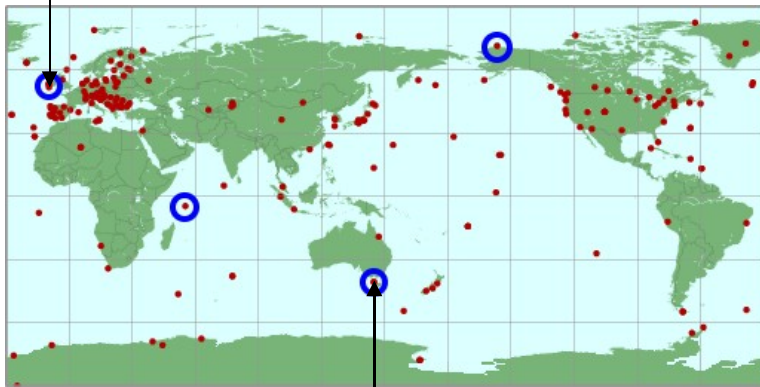
- Study of carbon exchanges between atmosphere and ocean
- Indirect indicators of carbon cycle: trees, ice core



Other ways of work (2)

(to discuss after the meeting or during breaks):

- Data online:
 - o Stations of measure



- o Relationship between past atmospheric CO₂ and temperature
 - o Relationship between recent atmospheric CO₂ and temperature
- Scientific articles

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And now:
it's up to you!

Good luck!