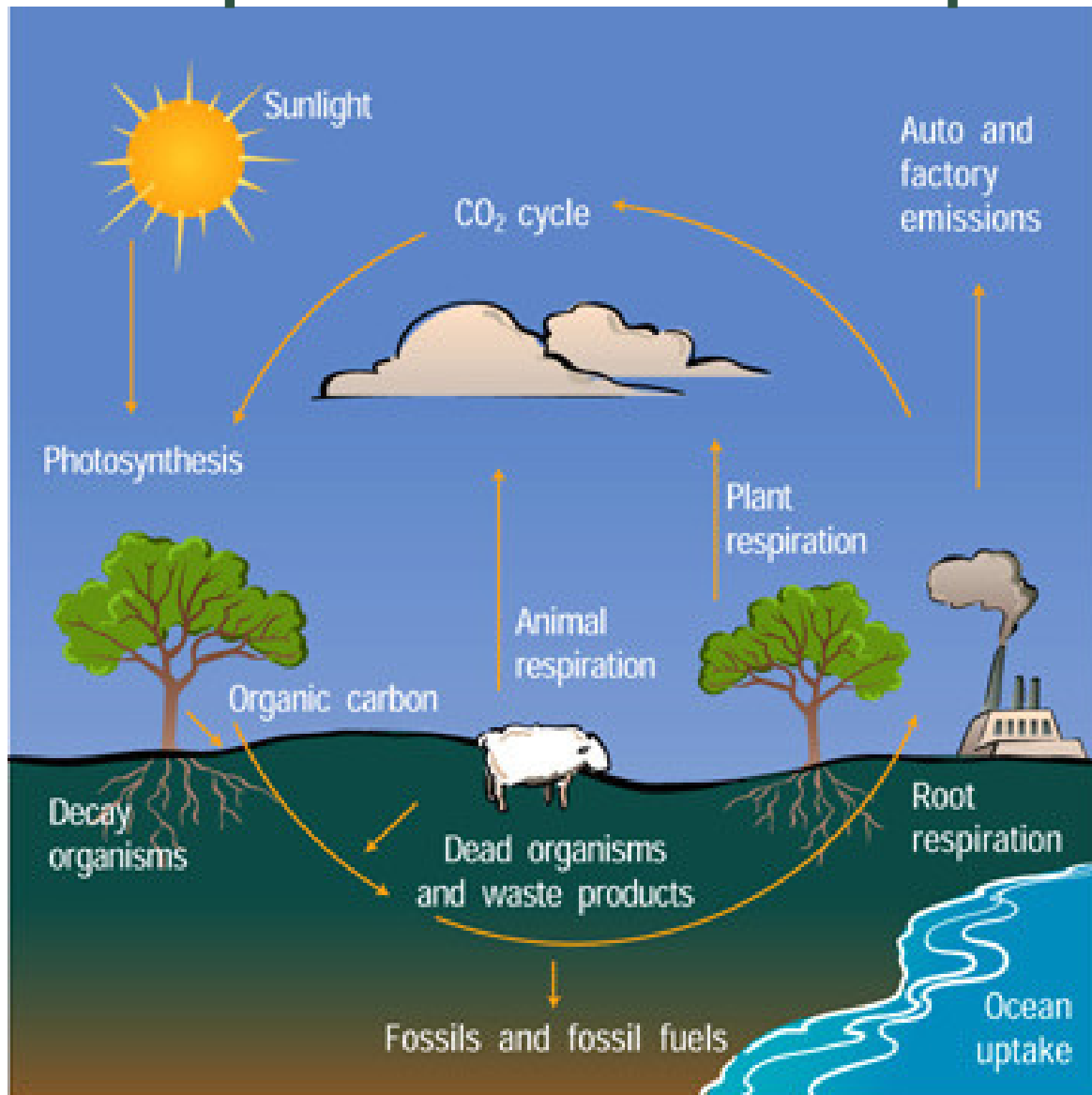


# Fuel Load Reduction and Carbon Cycling Sheep on California Landscape



- Most if not all of the vegetation on the acreage grazed by sheep represents a significant wildfire fuel-load in the summer and early autumn. Through well-managed grazing, California range-based sheep operations remove fine fuels (grass and other vegetation) on nearly 300,000 acres each fire season.
- California sheep consume approximately 700 million pounds of grass and other vegetation each year; reducing fire danger and the use of chemical herbicides and fossil fuels.
- Many sheep ranching families work in partnership with urban and suburban neighborhoods, public and private entities to remove fire-prone vegetation with sheep.
- Recent research at UC Davis suggests that grasslands can sequester more carbon than forests. Well-managed grazing can enhance this carbon sequestration by stimulating root growth, which stores carbon underground. Grazing by sheep (and other domestic livestock) convert this carbon into food and fiber while reducing the threat of wildfire.