**The Four Spheres of the Earth**

**Lithosphere**

* the solid, rocky crust covering the planet
* inorganic and composed of minerals
* covers the entire surface of the earth from the top

of Mt. Everest to the bottom of ocean trenches

**Hydrosphere**

* composed of all the water on or near the earth
* includes oceans, rivers lakes and even moisture in the

air

* 97% of the earth's water is in the oceans, the remaining 3% is fresh water

**Biosphere**

* composed of all living organisms
* plants, animals and single-celled organisms
* most of the planet's life is found from 3 metres below the ground to 30 metres above it and in the top 200 metres of the oceans

**Atmosphere**

* the body of air which surrounds our planet
* most of the atmosphere is located close to the earth's surface where it is most dense
* 78% is Nitrogen, 21% is Oxygen and less than 1% is Carbon Dioxide and other trace gases

***Make Connections!***

1. Explain a connection between the following: the biosphere and the hydrosphere, the atmosphere and the lithosphere, the atmosphere and the hydrosphere
2. Give an example of how all spheres can be present at the same location.
3. Using the Carbon Cycle, explain how carbon moves through all of the earth's spheres.