Carbon Cycling Reading Questions

Read “World Carbon Cycling” and answer the questions below.

1. What is the largest source, and largest sink, of carbon?

2. What is dissolved carbon used for by marine plants? What is bicarbonate used for by marine animals?

3. Where was most of the world’s carbon “stored” before fossil fuel use?

4. How much more of the world’s carbon is in fossil fuels than in the atmosphere?

5. How much of the world’s fossil fuels have already been released to the atmosphere?

6. Besides burning fossil fuels, what is the other large anthropogenic addition of carbon to the atmosphere?

7. Where has the extra carbon that has been released into the atmosphere gone?

8. By how much has the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere increased? What does this increase cause?