**Group B – Emily, Nicholle, Lori, Richard, Meghan**

1. What is the carbon cycle? Can I see a picture of it?

The carbon cycle is the process by which carbon moves through different states in the biosphere. It is part of the atmosphere as a gas; from this state it can be absorbed (as carbon dioxide) by plants through photosynthesis. This captured carbon may be released back into the atmosphere through respiration, either by the plants themselves or by animals that eat them, or through decay (including burning, and again of the plants themselves or animals that have eaten them). This happens at sea as well as on land. Alternatively, it can be stored for long periods through incorporation into the soil and eventual transformation into fossil fuels; it may then be released again into the atmosphere when these fuels are burned.

Many illustrations of this process are available, both online and in print; also any photo taken on earth of people, plants, animals, or machines would arguably show some part of the process.

I started my investigation with a quick Google search, which led me to Wikipedia, just to ascertain what type of thing this was. When I realized it was partially a geological process, I looked in the geology section of my library’s reference collection; the second book I looked at, *The Atlas of Climate Change*, contained an index entry for ‘carbon cycle’ which led me to a page with a brief explanation and an illustration (attached). I then looked in Credo Reference, an online database of reference works; a quick search of “carbon cycle” gave me over 900 hits, including a topic page which had a brief article from *The Columbia Encyclopedia* and linked to numerous articles, definitions, images, and videos. Reading the initial article and looking at some of the related items gave me a better picture, both figuratively and literally, of the carbon cycle. One of these images, from an article in *Philip’s Encyclopedia*, is also attached.

Dow, Kristin and Thomas E. Downing. *The Atlas of Climate Change*. Berkley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2006. Call number REF 551.6 D761at 2006; Cole Library, Cornell College.

"Carbon Cycle." *The Columbia Encyclopedia*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013. Credo Reference. Web. 30 January 2014. <<http://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/carbon_cycle?searchId=5671270644077018000>>

"Carbon Cycle." *Philip's Encyclopedia*. London: Philip's, 2008. Credo Reference. Web. 30 January 2014. <<http://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/philipency/carbon_cycle/0>>

1. What was the Holy Roman Empire? When did it start? Does it still exist? If not, when did it cease?
2. A patron comes to the desk and says his doctor says his blood pressure was too high. The patron needs to know what the good range is, why his might be high, and some possibilities for treatment, including not taking prescription drugs.

Our library has a number of books, both paper and electronic, on this topic; I would point the patron towards these, and encourage him to speak further with his doctor, rather than try to answer questions myself (I’m closer to a lawyer than a doctor, and thus am uncomfortable answering questions as either).

For a quick understanding of what “too high” means, I might direct him to the Merck Manual of Medical Information (Home Edition); if he seems amenable to online sources, I would also direct him to one of the more reputable websites, such as the Mayo Clinic’s article on what a blood pressure reading means. Both sources contain similar blood pressure charts, showing different ranges of “too high”; the exact breakdowns and recommended action for each are slightly different, even to what constitutes “normal,” so I would also strongly advise the patron to discuss his exact number with his doctor. The Mayo Clinic site references the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, which seems to be the source of its chart; this breaks blood pressure readings into “Normal” (below 120/80), “Prehypertension” (top 120-139 OR bottom 80-89) and “High blood pressure: Stage 1” (top 140-159 OR bottom 90-99) and “High blood pressure: Stage 2” (top 160 or higher OR bottom 100 or higher); if pressed, I’d probably recommend this chart, as it is apparently the U.S. government’s last word on the topic.

A good, recent (2012) book on the general subject available in our browsing room is *The Mayo Clinic Healthy heart for life!: The Mayo Clinic plan for preventing and conquering heart disease*. We also have numerous eBooks available, including *High Blood Pressure* (Susan Gregson), with chapters such as “What is High Blood Pressure?” and “Lifestyle Changes: Taming the Blood Pressure Beast”; *Heart Care for Life: Developing the Program that Works for You* with a chapter on “Alternative and Complementary Therapies” in addition to several chapters on current and cutting edge medical treatments; *High Blood Pressure* (Fahey et al) with an introduction “What you most need to know in 11 questions”; *Fast Facts: Hypertension*; *Blood pressure: questions you have, answers you need*; etc.

For non-prescription therapies, we have works in the reference collection: *The Alternative Advisor* and *Encyclopedia of Healing Therapies*, both of which includes an entry on high blood pressure, and *The Encyclopedia of Complementary and Alternative Medicine*, which has entries on Transcendental Meditation and Acupuncture as used for treating high blood pressure. The first two are older sources, though, (both 1997) so I would probably also encourage looking in some more recent sources as well as (of course and repeatedly) suggesting he talk to his healthcare provider. Another book we have on the topic is *The DASH diet for hypertension: lower your blood pressure in 14 days—without drugs* (2011). Again, we also have many more options available as eBooks, including *Alternative Medicine*; *Alternative Medicine and Rehabilitation*; *Exploring Complementary and Alternative Medicine*, and *Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the United States*, all from 2003 or later. A search of *((alternative OR non-traditional) N3 (therap\* OR treat\* OR medic\*)) AND (“blood-pressure” OR hypertension)* in the Health Source—Consumer Edition database also yields several dozen articles and reports from the past decade.

Kaufman, Kevin, ed. *The Mayo Clinic Healthy heart for life!: The Mayo Clinic plan for preventing and conquering heart disease*. New York: Time Home Entertainment Inc., 2012. Call number 616.12 M45 2012; Cole Library, Cornell College.

Navarra, Tova. *The Encyclopedia of Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. New York: Facts on File, Inc, 2004. Call number REF 615.5 N227e 2004; Cole Library, Cornell College.

*The Alternative Advisor*. Richmond, VA: Time Life Inc., 1997. Call number REF 615.5 AL785; Cole Library, Cornell College.

Woodham, Anne, and David Peters. *Encyclopedia of Healing Therapies*. New York: DK Publishing, 1997. Call number REF 615.5 AL785; Cole Library, Cornell College.

Beers, Mark H., ed. *The Merck Manual of Medical Information, Second Home Edition*. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck Research Laboratories, 2003. Call number REF 616 M537 2003; Cole Library, Cornell College.

Mayo Clinic Staff. “Blood pressure chart: What your reading means.” *Mayo Clinic Website*. Mayo Clinic, March 17, 2011. Web. <<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/high-blood-pressure/in-depth/blood-pressure/art-20050982>>

“What is High Blood Pressure?” *National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Website*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: August 2, 2012. Web. <<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/hbp/>>

1. Who said, "I think, therefore I am"? In what language was it originally said?

This is a quote from the French philosopher René Descartes, often quoted in Latin as “cogito ergo sum,” probably written first in either that language or in French. This is something I already knew; to confirm it, I went first to reference books on quotations. The first I looked in, organized by topic, didn’t obviously contain the quote—it wasn’t under “thought” and there wasn’t a section on “existence”. The next, organized by author, included the quote as “Je pense, donc je suis” and the information that it was to be found in the 1637 *Discours de la méthode* (*Discourse on method*), 4th discourse, which was its first appearance (**in French**, not Latin). To confirm *this*, I turned again to *Credo Reference*, which contained hundreds of articles; I looked for one about his writings, and went to one in a work on linguistics and philosophy of language, which confirmed that the quote came from the introduction to his *Philosophical Essays*, titled *Discourse on the Method of Rightly Conducting One’s Reason and Seeking the Truth in the Sciences* and apparently originally written/published in French. A quick scan of related articles, both in Credo and in Britannica Online, tended to confirm this: although the proposition is now known primarily in its Latin form, and did appear in this form in Descartes’ later writings, it was originally written in French. The text of this work in French, available from Project Gutenberg, also suggests this—the quote is contained there in French, and not in Latin.

Interestingly, Wikipedia (which I looked at to see if there was a quick list of all Descartes’ publications after completing the rest of my research) apparently disagrees—it asserts that *Discourse on the Method* was “written in French but with inclusion of ‘Cogito ergo sum’” (introductory section).

Jones, Alison, ed. *Chambers Dictionary of Quotations*. New York: Chambers, 1996. Call number REF 808.8 C355; Cole Library, Cornell College.

Clark, Billy., "[René Descartes](http://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/edinburghthinkl/ren%C3%A9_descartes/0)." *Key Thinkers in Linguistics and the Philosophy of Language*. Edinburg: Edinburgh University Press, 2005. Credo Reference. Web. 31 January 2014. <http://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/edinburghthinkl/renÃ©\_descartes/0>

"[Cogito Ergo Sum](http://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/ashgtvd/cogito_ergo_sum/0)." *Dictionary of Visual Discourse: A Dialectical Lexicon of Terms*. Surrey: Ashgate Publishing, 2011. Credo Reference. Web. 31 January 2014. <http://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/ashgtvd/cogito\_ergo\_sum/0>

"René Descartes." *Encyclopaedia Britannica. Encyclopaedia Britannica Online Academic Edition*. Encyclopædia Britannica Inc., 2014. Web. 31 Jan. 2014. <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/158787/Rene-Descartes>>.

*Discours de la méthode by René Descartes*. Project Gutenberg, 2004. Originally published 1637; Project Gutenberg version based on a 1765 reprint. <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/13846/13846-h/13846-h.htm>

Wikipedia contributors. "René Descartes." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 28 Jan. 2014. Web. 31 Jan. 2014. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ren%C3%A9_Descartes&oldid=592831395>>

1. What would I get if I asked for a "pop" in Indiana? What would I need to ask for to get the same thing in Massachusetts?

Most likely, you would get a sweetened, carbonated beverage. Possibly a father or a blow to the face.