

Interactive Earth

Interacting Systems

Air. Water. Ice. Rock. Life. These five things link together to make our planet hum. They're a team. Scientists call them **systems**. Each interacting system plays an important role, and they all depend on each other.

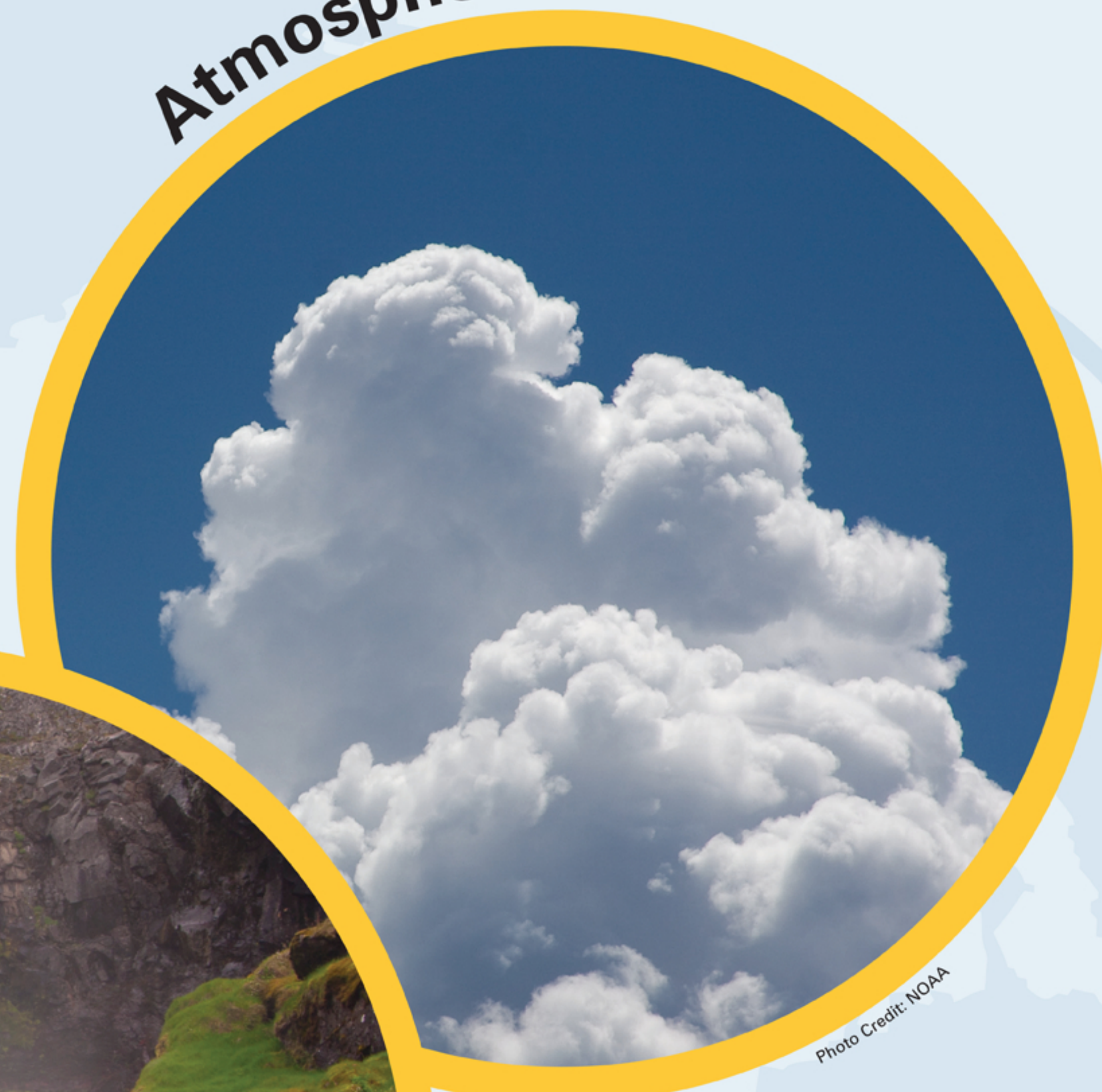
Scientists have fancy names for these systems: Atmosphere (air), Hydrosphere (water), Cryosphere (ice), Geosphere (rock), and Biosphere (life).

Changes in one affect the others. For example, water evaporates from a lake (part of the hydrosphere) into the air (part of the atmosphere). Then it's deposited back into the hydrosphere as rain. All five systems are connected like this. Can you think of other examples?

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

American Naturalist John Muir, 1911

Atmosphere



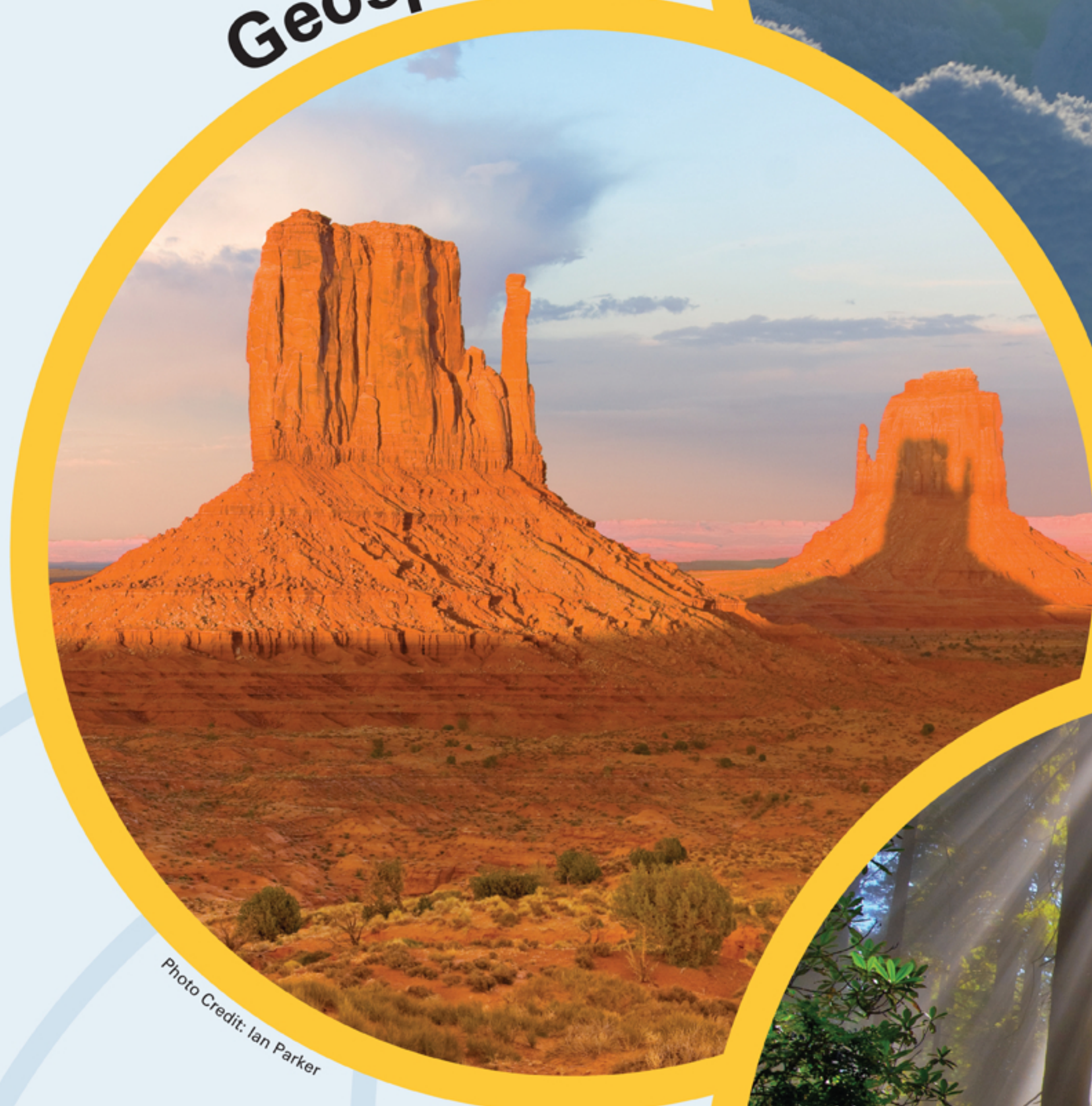
Hydrosphere



Cryosphere



Geosphere



Biosphere

