

The elements from which minerals are formed undergo continual cycling within the environment, the cycles being influenced by a variety of factors. This book reviews current knowledge of the major biological processes which are involved in these geochemical cycles and which influence, directly or indirectly, the formation, dissolution and transformation of minerals.

Chapter 1 outlines some general aspects of the biogeochemical cycling of elements, while subsequent chapters deal specifically with the cycles of carbon, phosphorus, iron, manganese, sulfur, silicon and uranium. Two final chapters deal with agricultural aspects of element cycling and the future consequences of mineral exploitation.

The book should be of value to geoscientists concerned with such diverse fields as ore genesis, environmental protection, mineral exploitation and extractive metallurgy, as well as to biologists interested in the metabolism of inorganic substrates and the influence of organisms on the geochemistry of the earth's surface.