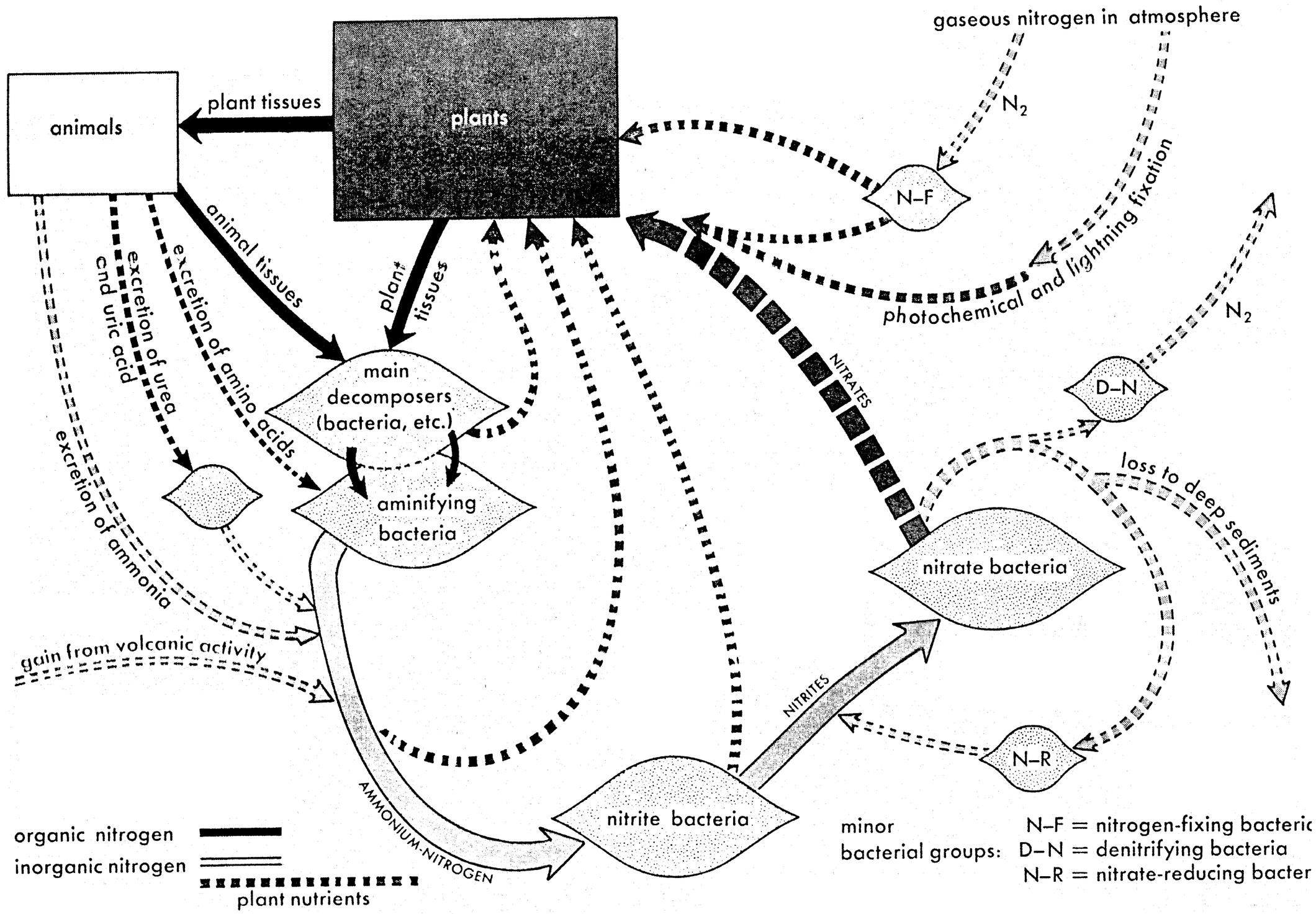

The biogeochemical cycle of nitrogen compounds in aquatic and other environments. As is the case with most "essential" ments, *inorganic* salts are taken up as nutrients by plants and transferred as *organic* compounds to animals and to decomposers