

The Water Cycle

Fill in the blank spaces in the text using the words below.

vapour	clouds
rivers	atmosphere
precipitation	polluted
chemicals	water cycle
oceans	wells
evaporation	snow

Water is essential to life on Earth. All of our water has been here for hundreds of millions of years. Water never leaves our planet, and no new water is ever made. The _____ is the process that moves water around the Earth, recycling it so that it can be used over and over again.

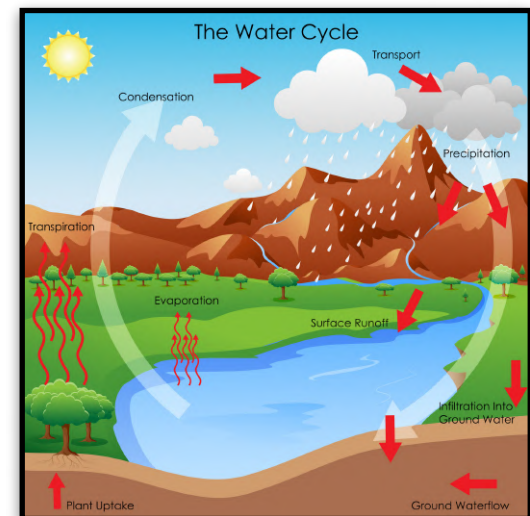
When water is heated and turns into water _____, the process is called evaporation. When water vapour cools, it turns back into water; this process is called condensation. These processes are very important in the water cycle, as they make it possible for water to move around in the _____.

The sun shines on large masses of water, such as _____ and lakes. This causes _____: water vapour forms and rises into the atmosphere. As the water vapour climbs up through the atmosphere, it cools and begins to form _____. These move around the world on winds high up in the atmosphere.

Eventually, the water in the clouds falls as _____. This might be snow, sleet, hail or rain, depending on the weather conditions and temperature. The water lands on the earth as precipitation. What happens next depends on where it falls. Some of it lands back in the oceans, or in rivers that run back to the ocean. Some falls as _____ in very cold areas and remains frozen. Some lands on the ground and either soaks in or runs off into _____.

Water stored underground can be reached by _____. There is actually water stored in saturated soil under most of the Earth's surface. In fact, around 30% of all the fresh water (not seawater) on Earth is stored underground. Because water is recycled around the world, _____ water is a problem. Pollutants can get into the water from rubbish, industrial processes, and _____ used in homes and on farms.

Hazardous waste (like oil, paint and other chemicals) should be properly disposed of so they cannot get into the water cycle.



The Water Cycle

Water is essential to life on Earth. All of our water has been here for hundreds of millions of years. Water never leaves our planet, and no new water is ever made. The **water cycle** is the process that moves water around the Earth, recycling it so that it can be used over and over again.

When water is heated and turns into water **vapour**, the process is called evaporation. When water vapour cools, it turns back into water; this process is called condensation. These processes are very important in the water cycle, as they make it possible for water to move around in the **atmosphere**.

The sun shines on large masses of water, such as **oceans** and lakes. This causes **evaporation**: water vapour forms and rises into the atmosphere. As the water vapour climbs up through the atmosphere, it cools and begins to form **clouds**. These move around the world on winds high up in the atmosphere.

Eventually, the water in the clouds falls as **precipitation**. This might be snow, sleet, hail or rain, depending on the weather conditions and temperature. The water lands on the earth as precipitation. What happens next depends on where it falls. Some of it lands back in the oceans, or in rivers that run back to the ocean. Some falls as **snow** in very cold areas and remains frozen. Some lands on the ground and either soaks in or runs off into **rivers**.

Water stored underground can be reached by **wells**. There is actually water stored in saturated soil under most of the Earth's surface. In fact, around 30% of all the fresh water (not seawater) on Earth is stored underground. Because water is recycled around the world, **polluted** water is a problem. Pollutants can get into the water from rubbish, industrial processes, and **chemicals** used in homes and on farms.

Hazardous waste (like oil, paint and other chemicals) should be properly disposed of so they cannot get into the water cycle.

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