

# WATER CYCLE

**Differentiated**

## CLOSE READING

**Science Passages & Questions**

**INTEGRATE  
SCIENCE  
INTO READING!**



**Grades  
3-5**

**Weather  
Passage 1**



## About the Passages

One passage is written on three levels.

Passages are marked H, M, or L (high, medium, low) at the bottom right of the page.

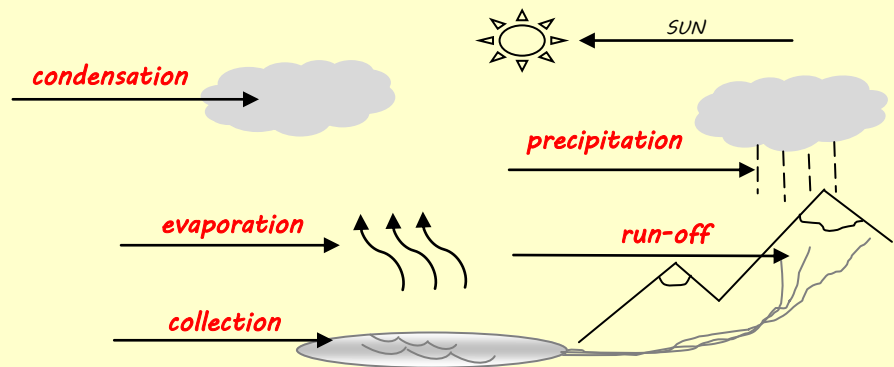
All students answer the same questions.

The passages are differentiated –not the assessment.

Passages are written with large font for annotating text in centers or guided reading as well as half page format for use in interactive science notebooks.

## Water Cycle Answers

1. The water cycle is a cycle of water moving from Earth to the atmosphere and back to Earth again.
2. Evaporate means to change from liquid water to water vapor.
3. Heat causes evaporation.
4. After evaporation, water vapor rises into the atmosphere.
5. Condensation is the process of water vapor changing to liquid water.
6. Clouds, dew, fog, frost, and the droplets on the outside of your glass are forms of condensation.
7. Rain, snow, sleet, and hail are precipitation.
8. Oceans provide the most water for the water cycle.
9. See diagram.



## More Science Passages

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SPACE PASSAGES [FREE Planets](#) [Revolution and Rotation](#) [Asteroids and Comets](#) [Moon Phases](#)

[Meteoroids, Meteors, Meteorites](#) [Stars](#) [Constellations](#) [Galaxies](#) [SPACE BUNDLE](#)

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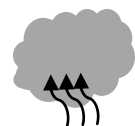
# Water Cycle

The **water cycle** is a continuous process of water moving from Earth to the atmosphere and returning back to Earth. There is no beginning or end to this cycle. Heat from the sun causes the water to rise from Earth and the cold temperatures in the atmosphere cause the water to return to Earth.

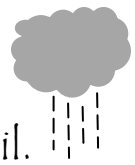
The sun warms the water on Earth's surface. The heat causes the water to **evaporate**, or change into water vapor. Water vapor is an invisible gas. The water vapor rises up into the atmosphere. Evaporation causes puddles to disappear and wet clothes to dry on the clothesline.



As the water vapor rises higher into the atmosphere, the temperature becomes colder. The water vapor gets cold and condenses. **Condensation** is the process of water vapor changing into tiny liquid droplets. These tiny water droplets form a cloud. Clouds are not the only place we see condensation. Fog, dew, frost, and the tiny drops that form on the outside of your drinking glass are also forms of condensation.



More and more vapor condenses until the cloud becomes too heavy with water. **Precipitation** occurs. The water droplets fall to Earth. Depending upon weather conditions, precipitation may be in the form of rain, snow, sleet, and hail.



Some precipitation becomes **run-off**. It flows off the land and mountains and into different places of **collection**. Some precipitation sinks into the ground and becomes **ground water**. This water may collect in underground storage areas such as **reservoirs** or **aquifers**. Some precipitation falls into the **freshwater** bodies of rivers and lakes. Precipitation may also fall into the **saltwater** of oceans. Oceans cover about 75% of Earth, so they provide the most water for the water cycle.

After precipitation falls into various places, the process continues. **Heat gain** melts ice and causes liquid water to become water vapor. This gas form of water rises into the cold atmosphere where **heat loss** causes water vapor to condense into tiny droplets that form clouds. The clouds become heavy with droplets and precipitation occurs again.

**Solid Water (ice) + Heat Gain = Melting (liquid water)**

**Liquid Water + Heat Gain = Evaporation (water vapor)**

**Water Vapor (gas) + Heat Loss = Condensation (clouds)**

**Liquid Water + Heat Loss = Freezing (ice)**

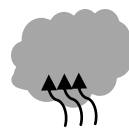
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More and more vapor condenses until the cloud becomes heavy with water. Water falls to Earth. This is **precipitation**. Different weather conditions cause precipitation in the form of rain, snow, sleet, or hail.



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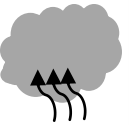
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As more water vapor condenses, the cloud becomes heavy. The water falls to Earth. This is **precipitation**. Different weather conditions can cause rain, snow, sleet, and hail.



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2. What is the meaning of **evaporate** ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
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6. Name 4 types of condensation. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Name 4 types of **precipitation**. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What provides most of the water for the water cycle? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Label the diagram.

**Word Bank**

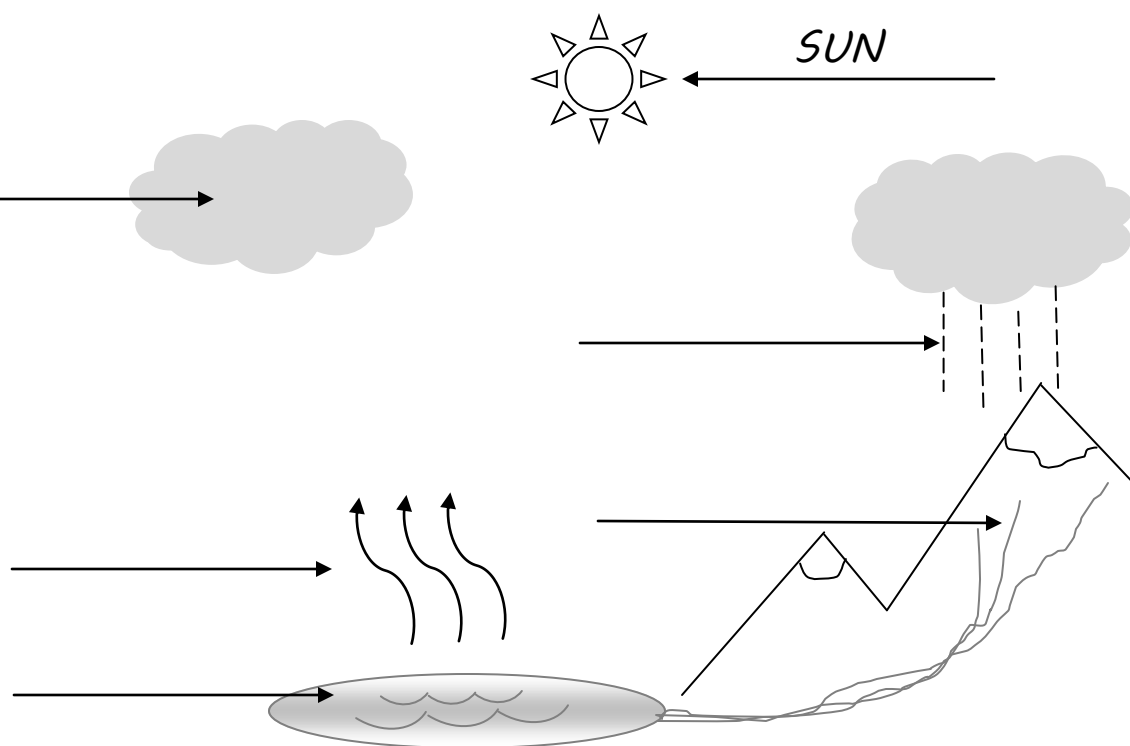
precipitation

condensation

evaporation

run-off

collection





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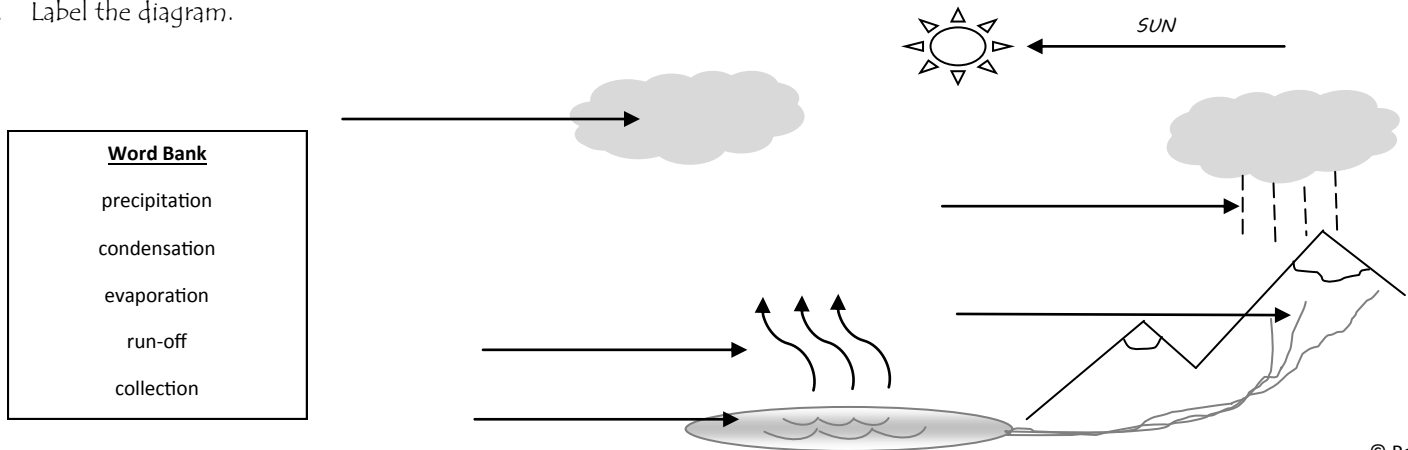
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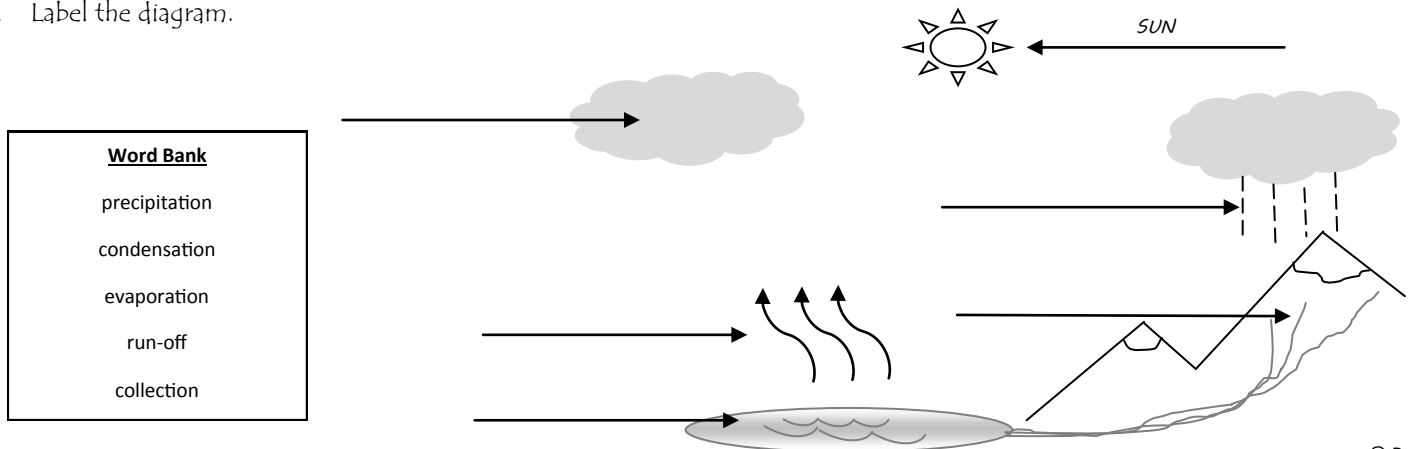
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