

The water cycle is the continuous movement of water within Earth and its atmosphere. Water moves from the Earth's surface to the atmosphere through evaporation and transpiration. It then returns to the surface as precipitation. This cycle includes: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, infiltration, runoff, and transpiration. The sun drives the entire water cycle and is responsible for its continuous movement. Water that falls on land collects in rivers, lakes, and underground sources. Plants absorb water through their roots and release it through their leaves.