

The Water Cycle

Genre: Nonfiction **Reading Level:** 300L **Grade:** 1st

Water moves around our planet in a cycle. This is called the water cycle. 14
The water cycle has three main steps. 21

First, the sun heats up water in oceans, lakes, and rivers. The water turns 35
into tiny drops called water vapor. This is called evaporation. The water 47
vapor rises up into the sky. 53

Next, the water vapor gets cold high in the sky. It turns back into water 68
drops. These drops form clouds. This step is called condensation. 78

Finally, the clouds get heavy with water. The water falls back to Earth as 92
rain, snow, or sleet. This is called precipitation. The water goes back into 105
oceans, lakes, and rivers. 109

Then the cycle starts all over again! The water cycle never stops. It has 123
been happening for millions of years. 129

The water cycle is important. It brings fresh water to plants, animals, and 142
people all over the world. 148

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the three main steps of the water cycle?
2. What happens to water when the sun heats it up?
3. What is it called when water falls back to Earth as rain or snow?
4. Why is the water cycle important?