

# The Water Cycle

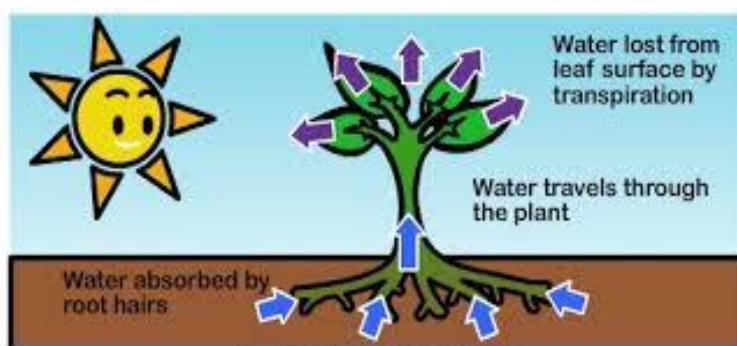
## What is the Water Cycle?

The water cycle is a way that water moves all around the Earth. It never stops, it does not have a beginning or an end. It's like a big circle!



## Did you know?

- ❖ The water cycle is also known as the “hydrologic cycle”
- ❖ Earth has been recycling water for over 4 billion years!
- ❖ Do plants sweat? Well, sort of.... People perspire (sweat) and plants transpire. Transpiration is the process by which plants lose water out of their leaves.



## So how can we understand this magical process called the water cycle?

There are four main parts to the water cycle: Evaporation, Convection, Precipitation and Collection.

### 1) Evaporation

Evaporation is when the sun heats up water in rivers or lakes or the ocean and turns it into vapour or steam. The water vapour or steam leaves the river, lake or ocean and goes into the air.

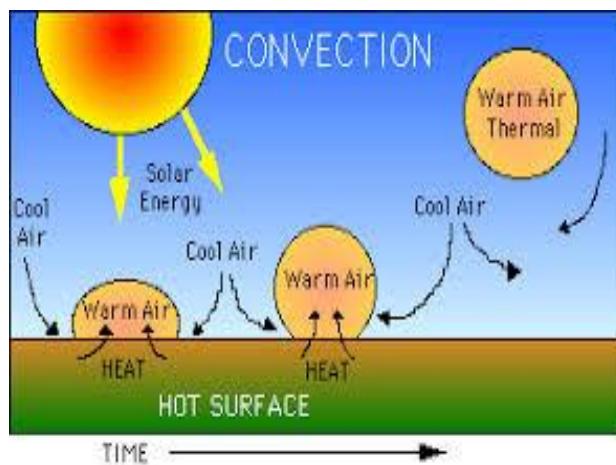


We have already learnt about transpiration, did you know that transpiration gives evaporation a bit of a hand in getting the water vapour back up into the air!



## 2) Convection

Convection in the water cycle is when the air near the surface is heated, then rises taking heat with it. Water vapour in the air gets cold and changes back into liquid, forming clouds. This is called condensation.



You can see the same sort of thing at home... Pour a glass of cold water on a hot day and watch what happens. Water forms on the outside of the glass. That water didn't somehow leak through the glass! It actually came from the air. Water vapour in the warm air, turns back into liquid when it touches the cold glass!



### 3) Precipitation

Precipitation occurs when so much water has condensed that the air cannot hold it anymore. The clouds get heavy and water falls back to the earth in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow.



### 4) Collection/Storage

A lot of the Earth's water does not take part in the water cycle very often. Much of it is stored. The Earth stores water in a number of places. The ocean is the largest storage of water. Around 96% of the Earth's water is stored in the ocean. We can't drink the salty ocean water, so fortunately for us, freshwater is also stored in lakes, glaciers, snow caps, rivers, and below the ground in groundwater storage.



(Look up the difficult words in your dictionary or why not try [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com))

Why not look up the following videos on the water cycle:

The Water Cycle Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWb4KIM2vts>

The Water Cycle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncORPosDriI>

### **ACTIVITY SECTION**

Complete the following activities, ask an adult for help if you need it.

1. The four stages of the water cycle are: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The water cycle is also called the \_\_\_\_\_ cycle.

3. T \_\_\_\_\_ is the process by which plants lose water out of their leaves.

4. Match the following words to the correct meaning

*Evaporation*                            *storage of water*

*Convection*                            *water has condensed as the air cannot hold it anymore*

*Precipitation*

*sun heats up water in rivers and turns it into vapour*

*Collection*

*air near the surface is heated and rises taking heat with it*

5. Circle what percentage of water is stored in the earth's ocean

80%

96%

100%

10%

6. Create a song/rap on the stages of the water cycle.