

## **## Lesson Title**

The Water Cycle

## **## Grade Level**

Grade 3

## **## Learning Objectives**

- Understand the four main steps of the water cycle: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.
- Describe how water moves through Earth's environment.
- Connect the water cycle to real-life examples.

## **## Key Vocabulary**

- Evaporation
- Condensation
- Precipitation
- Collection
- Water vapor

## **## Introduction**

The water cycle is the journey water takes as it moves from the land to the sky and back again. It's like a big circle that never ends. All the water on Earth has been here for millions of years, constantly moving through this cycle. Today, we will learn about the four main steps: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.

## **## Main Content**

### **### 1. Evaporation – Water Goes Up**

Evaporation happens when the sun heats up water in rivers, lakes, and oceans, turning it into a gas called water vapor. This vapor is very light, so it rises into the air. For example, when a puddle dries up on a sunny day, the water didn't disappear—it turned into gas and went into the sky.

### **### 2. Condensation – Forming Clouds**

Condensation is the opposite of evaporation. As water vapor rises higher, it cools down. Cold air turns the vapor back into tiny liquid droplets. These droplets gather with dust particles to form clouds. When you see a cloud, it is made of millions of tiny water droplets.

### **### 3. Precipitation – Water Comes Down**

Precipitation occurs when clouds get too heavy with water droplets. The water falls back to Earth as rain, snow, sleet, or hail. This provides the land with the water needed for plants and animals to live.

### **### 4. Collection – Gathering the Water**

Collection is when precipitation gathers in oceans, lakes, rivers, or soaks into the ground as groundwater. From these places, the sun will evaporate the water again, starting the cycle over.

## **## Visual or Diagram Suggestions**

- Show a circular diagram with arrows connecting Evaporation → Condensation → Precipitation → Collection.
- Include small icons: sun, cloud, rain, lake.

## **## Real-Life Connection**

- A puddle drying on a sunny day shows evaporation.
- Clouds forming after rain show condensation.
- Rain watering plants shows precipitation.
- Rivers and lakes collecting water show collection.

## **## Quick Quiz (3–5 Questions)**

1. What is the first step of the water cycle?
2. What happens during condensation?
3. Name two types of precipitation.
4. Where does water go during the collection step?
5. Why does the water cycle never end?

### **## Activity Idea**

- Draw your own water cycle diagram with labels for all four steps.
- Watch a puddle evaporate over a sunny day and record your observations.

### **## Summary**

The water cycle has four main parts:

1. Evaporation: water turns into gas and rises.
2. Condensation: gas turns into droplets to form clouds.
3. Precipitation: water falls as rain, snow, or hail.
4. Collection: water gathers in lakes, rivers, and oceans, ready to start the cycle again.