Water in the Atmosphere Study Guide

| What is the water cycle? | The Water cycle is the cycle of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation repeating over and over again. Also liquid, solid, vapor, and gasses. |
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| What is evaporation? | Evaporation is the particles of water that heat up because the molecules of liquid water in oceans, lakes, and other bodies of water are heated by the sun. |
| How does the energy of the sun cause evaporation? | The energy of the sun causes evaporation by the water molecules to speed up and collide more often. |
| What is condensation? | Condensation occurs when water vapor changes into liquid water. |
| What is needed for condensation to occur? | For condensation to occur, tiny particles must be present in the atmosphere so that the water has a surface on which to condense. |
| What is meant by dew point? | The temperature of the air needs to be for condensation to occur. |
| What is a result of condensation? | The result of condensation is if water vapor condenses in the atmosphere it forms clouds. When you look at a cloud you are seeing millions of these tiny water droplets or ice crystals. When water vapor condenses near ground level, it can take the form of fog. |
| What is humidity? | Humidity is a measure of the amount of water vapor in the air. |
| What is relative humidity? | Relative humidity is the percent of water vapor in the air compared to the maximum amount of water vapor the air can hold at a particular temperature. |
| How are humidity and relative humidity different? | Humidity is a measure of the amount of water vapor in the air and relative humidity is the percent of water vapor in the air compared to the maximum amount of water vapor the air can hold at a particular temperature. |
| What is precipitation? | Precipitation is any form of water that falls from clouds and reaches Earth’s surface. |
| Why is temperature an important factor in precipitation? | Temperature is an important factor in precipitation because in warm climates, precipitation is almost always rain, however in colder regions, precipitation often falls as snow and ice. |
| What are five types of precipitation? | The five types of precipitation are freezing rain, snow, hail, sleet, and clear. |
| What are the two main forces driving the water cycle? | Energy from the sun and the force of gravity. |