SCIENCE · WATER CYCLE · GRADES 2–5

The Water Cycle

Label evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection on the diagram.

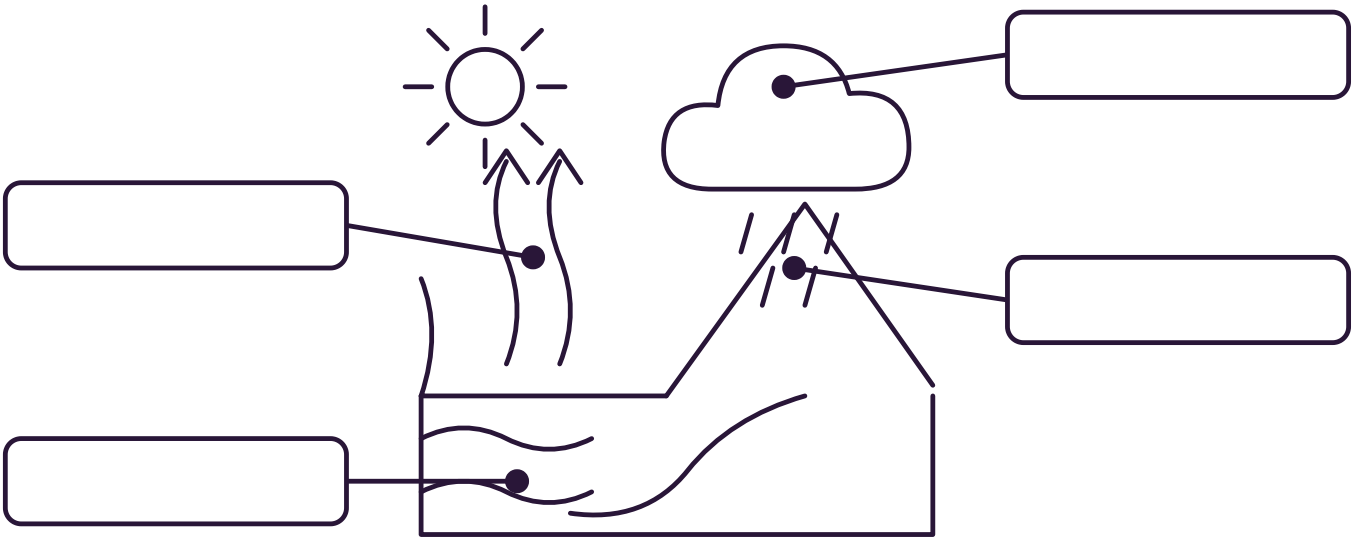


Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Word bank

evaporation | condensation | precipitation | collection

Write the name of each step of the water cycle.



The **sun** heats water in oceans, lakes and rivers until it turns into water vapor and rises (**evaporation**). High up, the vapor cools into clouds (**condensation**). Rain or snow falls (**precipitation**) and runs back into the water (**collection**). Then it starts again!

What powers the water cycle?

_____

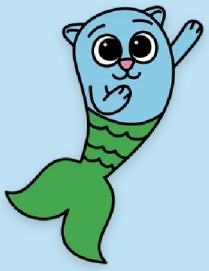
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Water Cycle Words

Match six water cycle words to their meanings, then fill in four sentences.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



1. Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

evaporation ●	● water in the form of a gas
condensation ●	● liquid water turns into a gas and rises
precipitation ●	● rain that flows over the ground into rivers
collection ●	● rain, snow, sleet or hail falling from clouds
water vapor ●	● water vapor cools and turns into drops that make clouds
runoff ●	● water gathering in oceans, lakes, rivers and the ground

Word bank

vapor · clouds · sun · ocean

2. Fill in the blanks.

1. The _____ heats the water and makes it evaporate.
2. Water that evaporates is a gas called water _____.
3. When water vapor condenses, it forms _____.
4. Most of the rain that falls ends up back in the _____.

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SCIENCE · WATER CYCLE · GRADES 2–5

Water Cycle in a Bag

Tape a bag of water to a sunny window and record what happens for four days.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Set it up: draw a sun and a cloud on a zip bag with a marker. Pour in a cup of water and a drop of blue food coloring. Seal it and tape it to a sunny window.

My prediction: I think the water will _____

Day	What I see on the bag	Where is the water now?
Day 1		
Day 2		
Day 3		
Day 4		

Draw your bag on day 3.

Which step of the water cycle made drops on the inside of the bag? What made them slide down?

_____

_____

_____

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SCIENCE · WATER CYCLE · GRADES 3–5

Where Is Earth's Water?

Six facts about salt and fresh water to mark true or false, then sort eight places into salt water and fresh water.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

About **97 out of every 100** drops of water on Earth are salty ocean water. Only 3 are fresh water, and most of that is frozen in ice caps and glaciers.

1. Circle True or False.

Most of Earth's water is in the oceans.	True	False
Ocean water is good to drink.	True	False
Most fresh water is frozen in ice.	True	False
Rivers and lakes hold most of Earth's water.	True	False
There is water under the ground.	True	False
Fresh water is something we should take care of.	True	False

2. Write each place in the right column.

a glacier · a pond · a lake · a river · the sea · rain · a salt marsh · the ocean

Salt water	Fresh water
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

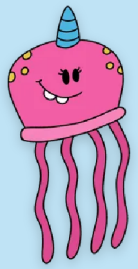
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SCIENCE · WATER CYCLE · GRADES 2–4

Save Water at Home

Tally how often you use water in a day, write one way to save it each time, then make a family plan.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Make a tally mark every time you use water today. Then think of one way to use a little less each time.

How I used water	Tally marks	Total	One way to save water
Brushing teeth			
Shower or bath			
Washing hands			
Drinking			
Flushing			
Other			

Our family water-saving plan:

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ANSWER KEY · WATER CYCLE · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: The Water Cycle

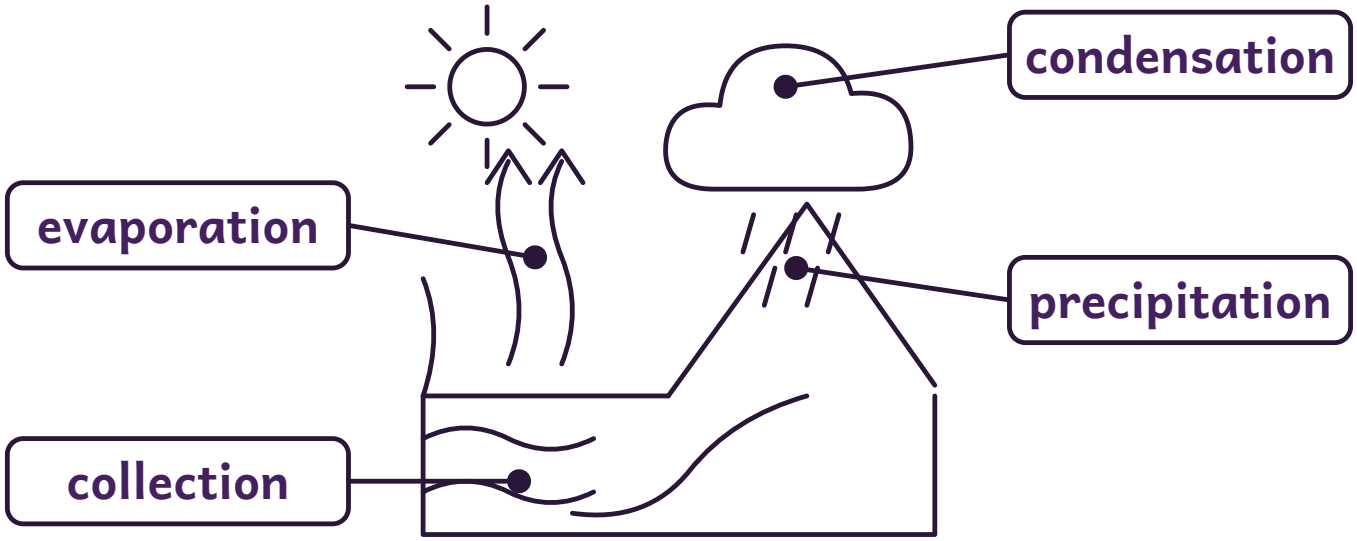
Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



Word bank

evaporation | condensation | precipitation | collection

Write the name of each step of the water cycle.



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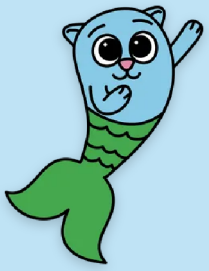
What powers the water cycle?

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · WATER CYCLE · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Water Cycle Words

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



1. Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

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condensation	water vapor cools and turns into drops that make clouds
precipitation	rain, snow, sleet or hail falling from clouds
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water vapor	water in the form of a gas
runoff	rain that flows over the ground into rivers

Word bank

vapor · clouds · sun · ocean

2. Fill in the blanks.

1. The sun heats the water and makes it evaporate.
2. Water that evaporates is a gas called water vapor.
3. When water vapor condenses, it forms clouds.
4. Most of the rain that falls ends up back in the ocean.

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ANSWER KEY · WATER CYCLE · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Where Is Earth's Water?

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



About **97 out of every 100** drops of water on Earth are salty ocean water. Only 3 are fresh water, and most of that is frozen in ice caps and glaciers.

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There is water under the ground.	**True**	False
Fresh water is something we should take care of.	**True**	False

2. Write each place in the right column.

a glacier · a pond · a lake · a river · the sea · rain · a salt marsh · the ocean

Salt water	Fresh water
the ocean	a lake
the sea	a river
a salt marsh	a glacier
	rain
	a pond

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