

The Water Cycle

Water is always moving around our world in a big circle called the water cycle.

When the sun shines on puddles, rivers, lakes and the sea, it warms the water. Some of that water turns into tiny droplets of water vapour and floats up into the sky. This is called evaporation.

High up in the sky, the air is cold. The water vapour cools down and turns into tiny drops of water that stick together to make clouds. This is called condensation.

When lots of water drops join together inside a cloud, they get too heavy to stay up. They fall back down to the ground as rain, snow or hail. This is called precipitation.

The rain flows into rivers, lakes and the sea, soaks into the ground, or is taken up by plants and trees. Then the sun warms it all up again and the whole cycle starts again!

Questions

1. What is the name of the big circle that water makes?
2. What does the sun do to water in puddles, rivers and the sea?
3. What is it called when water turns into tiny droplets and floats up into the sky?
4. Why does the water vapour cool down when it goes high in the sky?
5. What do tiny drops of water stick together to make?
6. What is it called when water vapour cools and turns into tiny drops?
7. Name three things that water falls back down as.
8. What is the word for water falling back down from clouds?
9. Name two places the rain flows into after it falls.
10. Why do you think the water cycle is called a cycle and not just a journey?



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