

## The Water Cycle

Water is always moving around our planet in a never-ending process called the water cycle. The sun is the engine that keeps it going.

When the sun heats water in oceans, rivers and lakes, some of it turns into invisible water vapour and rises into the air. This process is called evaporation. Plants also release water vapour through their leaves in a process called transpiration.

As water vapour rises higher into the atmosphere, it cools down and turns back into tiny liquid droplets. These droplets cluster together around specks of dust to form clouds. This change is called condensation.

Eventually the droplets inside a cloud join together and grow too heavy to float. They fall to Earth as rain, sleet, snow or hail. This is called precipitation.

Once on the ground, water runs into streams and rivers, soaks into the soil, or is absorbed by plant roots. Rivers carry the water back to the sea, and the whole cycle begins again.

Without the water cycle, there would be no fresh water for plants, animals or people to survive.

## Questions

1. What is the name of the never-ending process in which water moves around the planet?
2. What is described as the engine that keeps the water cycle going?
3. What is it called when the sun turns water into invisible water vapour?
4. What is transpiration?
5. Where does water vapour go after it rises from the surface?
6. What does water vapour turn back into when it cools down high in the atmosphere?
7. What do tiny droplets cluster around to help form clouds?
8. Give four examples of precipitation.
9. Name three things that happen to water once it reaches the ground.
10. What do you think would happen to life on Earth if the water cycle suddenly stopped?



**Text B Quiz**



*Read and Retrieve*