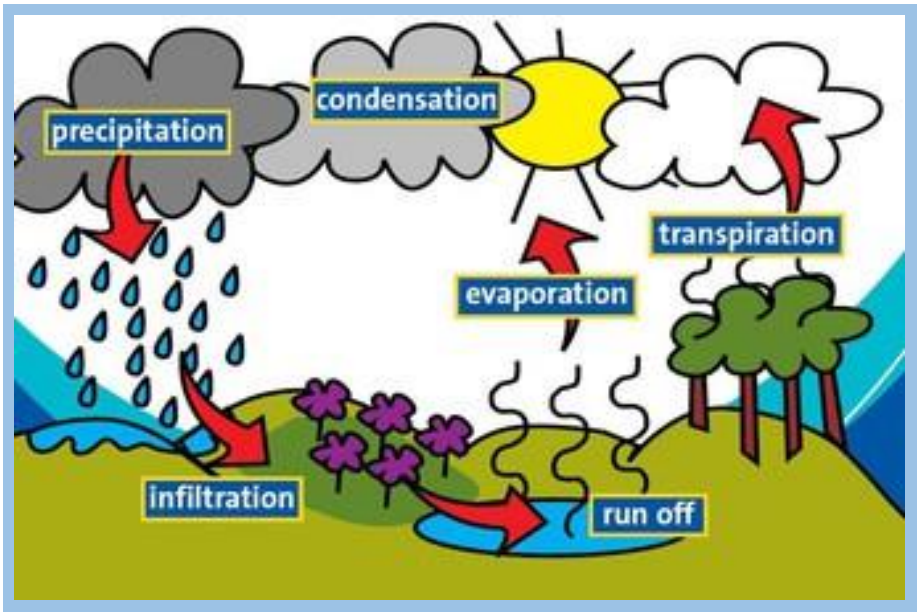
Water Cycle Walk About

Name: _____

The Water Cycle



Steps of the Water Cycle

Step 1: The sun shines on lakes, oceans, and rivers, heating up the water and turning it into water vapour (like steam) through **evaporation.** The water vapour leaves the oceans, lakes, and rivers, and rises into the atmosphere.

Step 2: The water vapour begins to cool the higher it goes, and then the water molecules begin to stick together through **condensation.** Clouds are formed as the water condenses.

Step 3: Inside the clouds, the water molecules continue to combine forming water droplets. When the water droplets get heavy enough, they fall back to the ground as precipitation such as rain, sleep, snow, or hail.

Interesting Fact:

The water that you drink today is the same water that the dinosaurs drank millions of years ago!

Water Cycle Walk About

Let's look for evidence of the water cycle in the outdoor classroom.

Evaporation: Water changes from a liquid to a vapour (or gas).

Do you see any evidence of **evaporation?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, what evidence do you see? _____

Hint: Evidence of evaporation could be a dried up mud puddle, low water levels in a pond, and a dried up leaf.

Condensation: Water vapour in the air is changed into liquid water.

Do you see any evidence of **condensation?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, what evidence do you see? _____

Hint: Evidence of condensation could be clouds, fog, dew on grass, and water droplets on the side of a cold water bottle on a hot day.

Precipitation: Water released from clouds in the form of rain, sleet, snow, or hail is precipitation. This provides for the delivery of water from the atmosphere to water on the Earth.

Do you see any evidence of **precipitation?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, what evidence to you see? _____

Hint: Evidence of precipitation could be snow on the ground, a mud puddle, or wet grass after a rain.

What is the sunlight like today?

☐ Sunny  ☐ Partly Cloudy  ☐ Cloudy/Raining 

Does the amount of sunlight affect the water cycle? If so, how?

_____

_____

_____

_____