

Clouds & the Water Cycle

The water cycle is the process of how water moves throughout the earth.

3 Stages of the Water Cycle:

1 EVAPORATION

Energy from the sun heats water on Earth which causes it to rise.

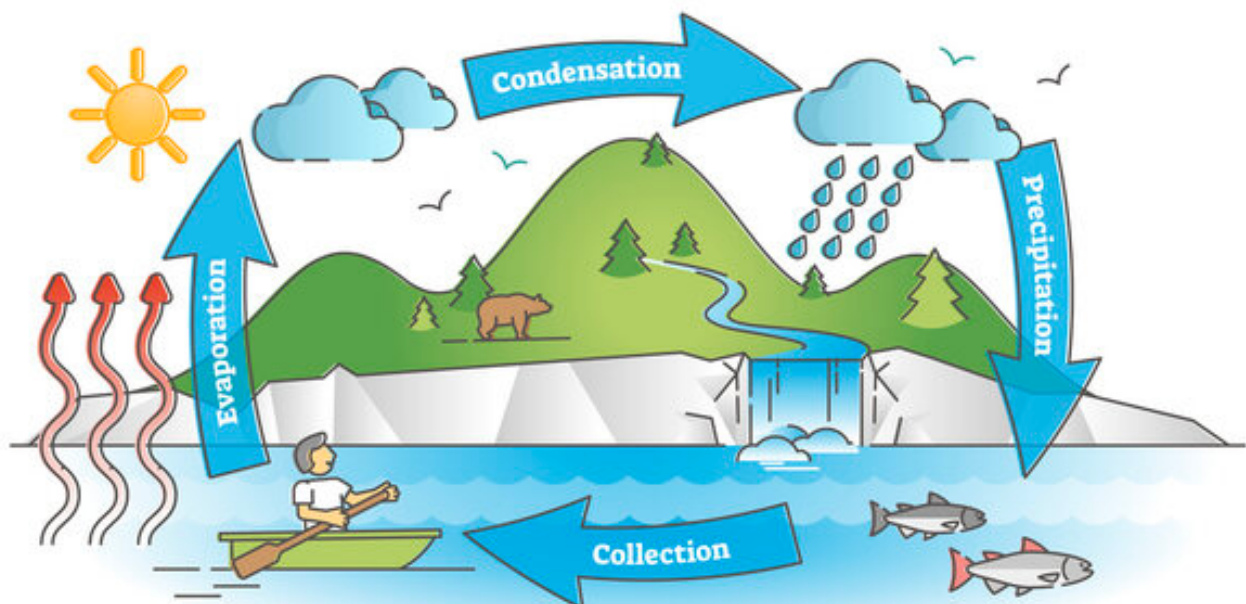
While rising water "evaporates" or turns in water vapor (gas)

2 CONDENSATION

Water vapor in the sky cools and becomes water again. This makes clouds!

3 PRECIPITATION

When too much water condenses, water becomes heavy in clouds. So, water falls down as rain, snow, hail, or sleet



ACTIVITY: STORM IN A GLASS

MATERIALS

- Shaving Cream
- A Large Glass
- Water
- Food Coloring
- A Spoon



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill the glass 1/2 full with water
2. Spray some shaving cream on top of the water to fill the glass to $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
3. Use your finger or a spoon to spread the shaving cream evenly over the top of the water. The top of the shaving cream should be flat.
4. Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ -cup water with 10 drops of food coloring in a separate container. Gently add the colored water, spoonful by spoonful, to the top of the shaving cream. When it gets too heavy, watch it storm!

EXPLANATION

Clouds in the sky hold onto water. The layer of shaving cream is our pretend cloud in this experiment, as the shaving cream layer can also hold onto water. Clouds can't keep storing more and more water forever; eventually they get too heavy. When that happens, the water falls out (precipitates) as rain, snow, sleet, or hail.

