

Science/Reading Comprehension
Grade 4 - 6

The Water Cycle

The water cycle is the movement of water between the Earth's surface and the atmosphere. This movement is based on energy from the sun, and consists of three main processes known as evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. These processes regulate the earth's weather.

What is evaporation? Evaporation occurs when the sun heats water on the surface of the earth causing the water to change from liquid to a type of gas known as water vapor. The water vapor then rises into the atmosphere, or air.

What is condensation? Condensation takes place when water vapor cools, condenses, and changes to liquid in the form of small water drops. The water drops collect to become clouds.

What is precipitation? Precipitation occurs when the water drops in clouds combine and become larger and heavier. The weight becomes heavy causing the water drops to fall from the clouds to Earth in the form of rain, snow, or hail.

Questions

1. What is the water cycle?
2. What processes make up the water?
3. What happens during precipitation?

Created by Dr. Aleathea Wiggins
aleathea@hotmail.com

