

THE WATER CYCLE

OUR
WATER IS
PRECIOUS



The water cycle has four main stages
evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection.



Evaporation is when the sun heats up water in rivers or lakes or the ocean and turns it into vapour or steam.



Water vapour in the air gets cold and changes back into liquid, forming clouds. This is called condensation.



Precipitation occurs when so much water has condensed that the air cannot hold it anymore. The clouds get heavy and water falls back to the earth in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow.

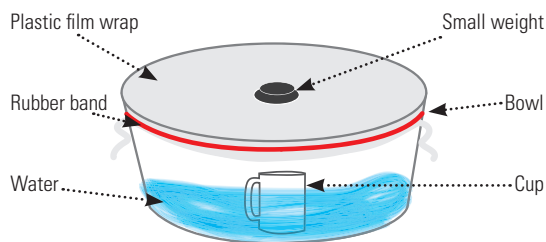


Collection is when water falls back to earth and collects in various places. It may collect on land and soak up to become groundwater, lying beneath the surface in underground lakes or aquifers.

Water evaporates into the sky again and the cycle continues.

CREATE AND MAKE...

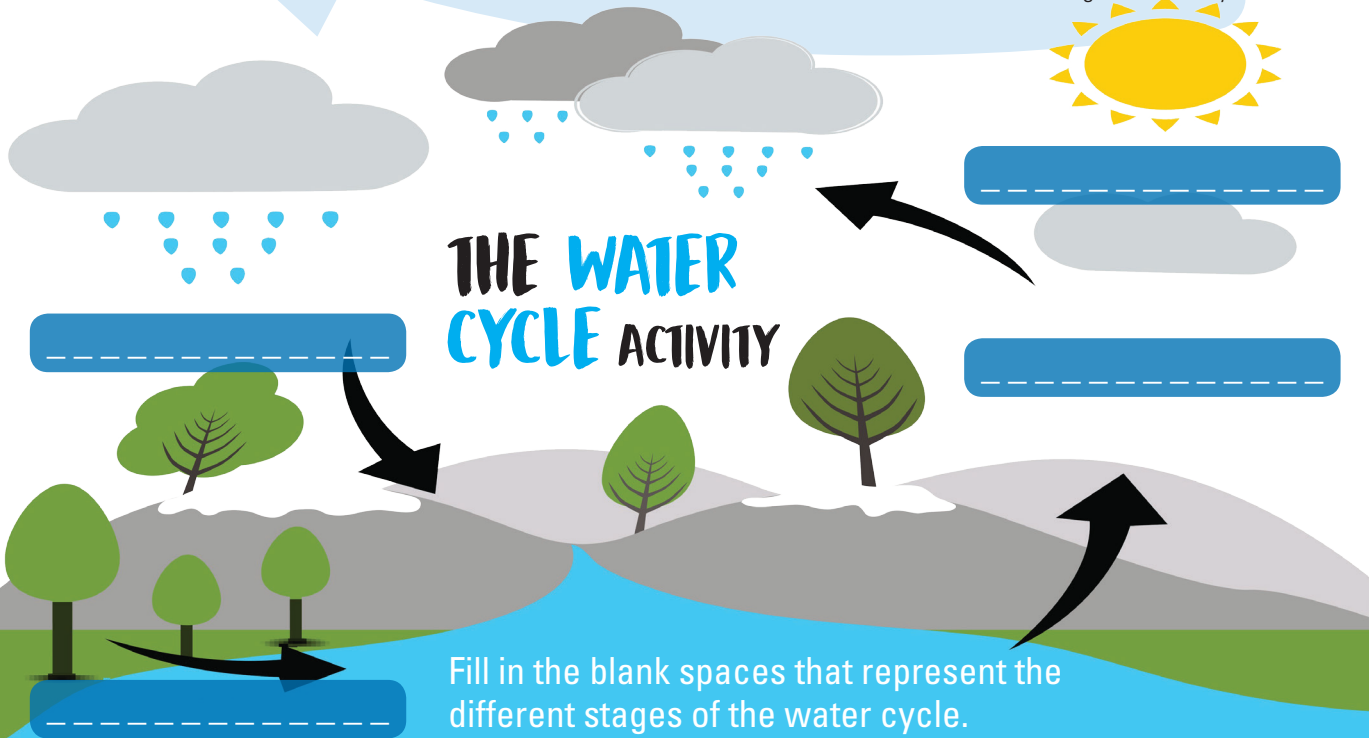
It's possible to create your own water cycle experiment to see how the phenomena occurs and watch the transformations in miniature.



Take a large bowl and pour some water into it. In the centre, place a small cup

the sun for a while, you should see the processes of the water cycle occurring in that the water will start to evaporate, it will condense and cool on the cling wrap, and then fall into the pot as 'rain'.

Cover this with plastic film wrap and put a small weight on top of it – directly above the cup. If you leave this outside in



THE WATER CYCLE ACTIVITY

Fill in the blank spaces that represent the different stages of the water cycle.

DO PLANTS SWEAT?

Well sort of... people perspire (sweat) and plants transpire. Transpiration happens when plants lose water out of their leaves. Transpiration gives evaporation a helping hand by getting the water vapour back up into the air.



A glass of dino water

The water you drink today could be the same water a dinosaur drank millions of years ago.

The earth's water cycle, or hydrologic cycle, uses and continuously recycles our water.

That means the amount of water in clouds, on land, in ice caps and in oceans is the same today as it was millions of years ago.

Next time you reach for a glass of water, remember it likely passed through a dinosaur.

All water on earth is recycled.



EXPLORE THE WATER CYCLE FROM CATCHMENT TO TAP ON AN SEQWATER LEARNING EXPERIENCES!



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