



# REALITIES OF RAIN

## THE WATER CYCLE

Water is essential for sustaining life on this planet. The water cycle, or the hydrologic cycle, describes the continuous movement of water. The water journey is a constant flow through:

**CONDENSATION** – the build-up of water vapour (gas) to form clouds and then into water liquid.

**PRECIPITATION** – the water vapour becomes so heavy in the clouds that it begins to form as liquid, and falls from the sky. The water can fall from the sky in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow. This water collects in rivers, creeks and streams.

**TRANSPIRATION** – the water is absorbed by the plants root system.

**INFILTRATION** – water on the grounds surface enters the soil and infiltrates the groundwater and aquifers.

**EVAPORATION** – sunlight causes evaporation. This is where the water droplets (liquid) heat up and change form into water vapour (gas). Water vapour rises into the sky where the cycle begins again.

