

The Water Cycle

EVAPORATION

Evaporation takes place when the sun heats up water from all different types of open water areas and turns it into water vapour, the water vapour then rises up off the land and into the air.

CONDENSATION

When the water vapour is in the air it starts to turn cold and change into a liquid and forms clouds. We see condensation on our windows. This is when water, which collects as droplets on a cold surface when humid air is in contact with it.

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation happens when a large amount of water has condensed and the clouds become too heavy. Water then falls from the air back to the land as rain, sleet or snow.

PERCOLATION

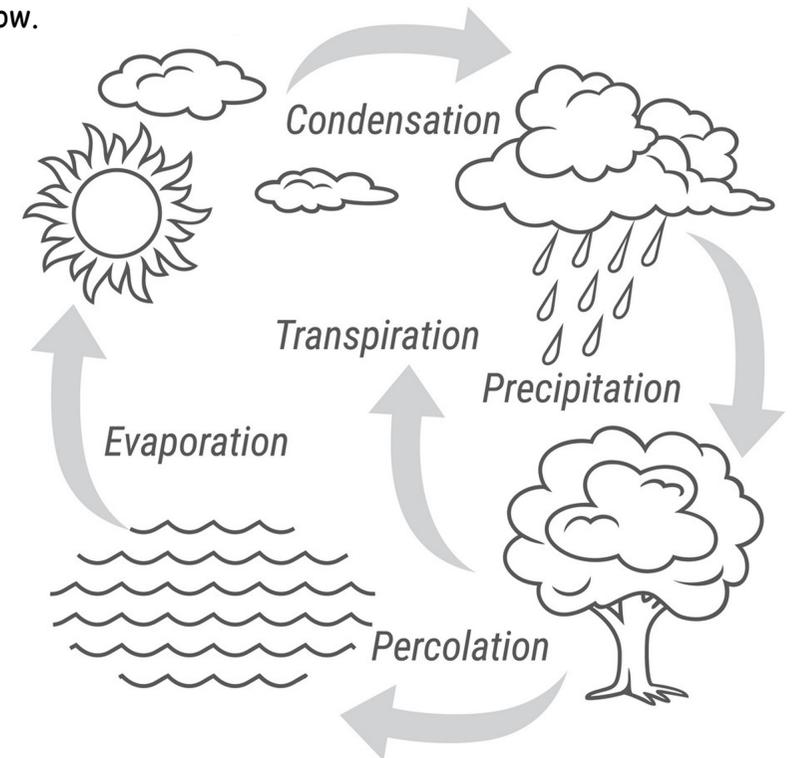
Rainfall seeps underground through a process called percolation, where water travels downwards through the tiny spaces between rocks and soil particles.

The water eventually saturates the underlying rock much like water fills the tiny holes of a sponge. This helps to replenish aquifers under the ground.

TRANSPIRATION COLLECTION

Is where plants lose water from their leaves

When the water falls back to earth via precipitation, it gathers in lakes, rivers and seas. When it falls on land it either soaks into the ground, a process called infiltration, and makes its way underground to streams and rivers. Or, it will run over land and back into the streams and rivers - a process called run-off.



Have a look at a map of the Gaunless. Where do you think the most precipitation happens? (Hint: look for the highest ground)

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ACTIVITY

Why not make your own water-cycle?

HOW TO DO THIS...

1. Using a plastic bottle, take off the outside label and clean it and let it dry.
2. Add a small amount of water to a clear bottle - such as a washed-out pop bottle.
3. Then put it in a sunny window for a few hours and check back to see what happens

ADDITIONS - you could...

- add some blue food colouring to the water
- decorate your bottle or bag with the water-cycle
- put some soil and vegetation to make it more realistic!

Have you been able to spot the following processes occurring:

- evaporation
- condensation
- precipitation
- collection

