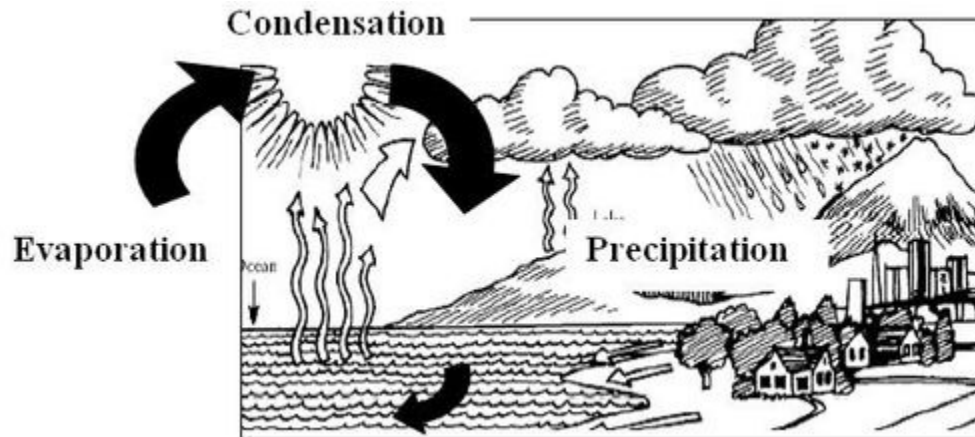


Weather - The Water Cycle

by ReadWorks



Where does the water that causes rain come from? Actually, the water was there all along. All of the water in the whole world has always been here. Think of all of the oceans and lakes on the globe. This is where the tiny water particles in the air come from. But how does this happen?

The Earth's water cycle begins with a change in temperature. When the sun heats the Earth, a little water from oceans, lakes, and rivers evaporates. It turns into an invisible gas or vapor. Water molecules rise into the air. Eventually, clouds form and the water drops back to Earth as rain. The rain flows into rivers or streams back to the ocean or lakes again. Do you see the arrows in the picture? These arrows show the path of water from the ocean, to the sky, and then back to the earth. This is the water cycle.

Condensation also plays a big role in the creation of rain. The air far up in the sky can be very cold. When the warm air that contains invisible water droplets rises from earth and meets cold air, the droplets become visible. This process is called condensation. Clouds are formed as the air high up becomes colder and heavier. When the water drops grow too heavy to be held by the air, they fall out of the clouds as precipitation, or rain. The rain runs into the Earth's oceans, rivers, and lakes. Then, the cycle starts all over again!

cycle cy · cle

Definition

noun

1. a circle of events that starts from the beginning again and again.

Summer follows spring in the cycle of seasons.

Advanced Definition

noun

1. a circle of events that repeats in a regular pattern.

The children made posters showing the cycle of the seasons in a year.

Evaporation and condensation are parts of the water cycle.

Frequency of an electrical current is indicated in cycles per second.

2. the time interval required for such a sequence to occur; periodicity.

I looked at a magazine during the wash cycle.

3. a long time; age; era.

4. a bicycle, unicycle, motorcycle, or the like.

We saw an exhibit of cycles from the 1920s in the science and industry museum.

5. a series of literary or musical works on a central theme.

a cycle of poems

a song cycle

intransitive verb

1. to move in or pass through cycles.

The man grew more lonely as the seasons cycled past.

2. to travel by means of a bicycle, motorcycle, or the like.

The clown cycled around the circus ring.

Let's cycle around the park.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Dad always gets to teach Lisa things in the garden, about the caterpillars and their **lifecycles**.
2. It is important to respect and understand the **ecycle** of life and the natural path that nature has set up for plants, animals and humans.
3. When the water drops grow too heavy to be held by the air, they fall out of the clouds as precipitation, or rain. The rain runs into the Earth's oceans, rivers, and lakes. Then, the **ecycle** starts all over again!
4. When an animal dies, decomposers break apart the animal, returning nutrients back into the environment. These nutrients then feed plants (the producers), which completes the **ecycle**.
5. But at no point does the amount of matter in the ecosystem change. Matter does not disappear. It simply **cycles** through the environment, taking on different shapes and properties.
6. Humans play an important and sometimes deadly role in this **ecycle**. By building highways and cities, knocking down trees and polluting rivers, we are changing the environment for the organisms around us.
7. Your brain becomes very active during REM sleep. Most dreaming takes place during that sleep stage. Your body cycles through REM and non-REM stages several times a night. Each **cycle** lasts about 90 minutes.
8. If you plan on general biking fun, a hybrid bike will be fine. Visit a bike shop and talk with someone who knows a lot about the different types of bikes. Then have fun with your **cycling**!
9. At about 12 weeks, the young frog grows legs, and its tail disappears. It leaves the water and can live on land. In about one year, the frog is a full-grown adult. Soon, the **ecycle** will begin again.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What do all of the arrows in the picture represent?
 - A. Lakes
 - B. The movement of water
 - C. Evaporation
 - D. Condensation

2. In the water cycle, lake water will do which of the following first?
 - A. Turn into water vapor in the air
 - B. Condense
 - C. Turn into rain
 - D. Turn into a cloud

3. Water vapor in the air will do which of the following last?
 - A. Flow into oceans, rivers, and lakes as rainwater
 - B. Turn into a cloud
 - C. Turn into rain
 - D. Disappear

4. What force causes the water cycle to start?
 - A. Evaporation
 - B. Condensation
 - C. Precipitation
 - D. Temperature change

5. The passage is mostly about
 - A. The differences between condensation and precipitation
 - B. How the sun causes rain
 - C. How water goes through different phases on earth
 - D. How rain moves in a circle

6. What do you think the author's purpose might be for writing this passage?

7. What is condensation?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The water cycle has a bunch of different stages, _____ condensation.

- A. also
- B. and
- C. except
- D. including

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a meaning of the word **cycle**?

- A. a piece of stone or metal that attracts iron or steel
- B. period of time during which a series of things repeats
- C. a position on a scale of intensity or amount or quality

2. What is another meaning of the word **cycle**?

- A. a process that returns to its beginning and then repeats itself in the same sequence
- B. a systematic means of communicating by the use of sounds or conventional symbols
- C. an illustration that is drawn by hand and published in a book, magazine, or newspaper

Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.

3. How is a butterfly life _____ different from a person's life _____?

- A. bicycle
- B. bicycles
- C. cycle
- D. recycled
- E. recycling
- F. cycles

4. You climb on your _____ and push down on the pedals.

- A. bicycle
- B. bicycles
- C. cycle
- D. recycled
- E. recycling
- F. cycles

5. How do plant life _____ compare with animal life _____?

- A. bicycle
- B. bicycles
- C. cycle
- D. recycled
- E. recycling
- F. cycles

6. In 1899, more than one million _____ were made.

- A. bicycle
- B. bicycles
- C. cycle
- D. recycled
- E. recycling
- F. cycles

7. However, _____ is more important today because there is more pollution and fewer natural resources.

- A. bicycle
- B. bicycles
- C. cycle
- D. recycled
- E. recycling
- F. cycles

8. Some people use these _____ material to make art!

- A. bicycle
- B. bicycles
- C. cycle
- D. recycled
- E. recycling
- F. cycles

9. Please write your own sentence using the word **cycle**.

10. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **cycle** so that you can use it when you write or speak?
