

The Water Cycle

Extra language support. Read with a partner or teacher if useful.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Water moves between the land and the air. The Sun warms water in lakes, rivers, and oceans. Some water changes into a gas. This gas is called water vapor. You cannot see it.

When water vapor cools, it can change into tiny drops of liquid water. Clouds can hold these drops or tiny ice crystals. When drops or ice pieces grow large enough, water falls as rain or snow.

Some water flows into streams. Some goes into the ground. Plants take in water through their roots. They let water vapor out from their leaves. Water keeps moving. It does not always follow the same path.

Word help

Water vapor	Water as a gas that you cannot see.
Roots	The parts of a plant that take in water from the ground.

Read, find, explain

1. What warms the water?

2. Name two things that clouds can hold.

3. Where do plants take in water?

Underline a sentence that helped you answer. You may answer aloud, with a drawing, or in writing.

The Water Cycle

Keep the science vocabulary; use shorter sentences to explain each change.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The water cycle shows how water moves between Earth and the air. The Sun heats water in lakes, rivers, and oceans. Some water turns into an invisible gas called water vapor. This change is evaporation.

When water vapor cools, it can turn into tiny liquid drops. This change is condensation. Clouds can contain these drops or tiny ice crystals. When drops or ice particles grow large enough, water falls as rain or snow. This is precipitation.

Some water flows over land into streams. Some soaks into the ground. Plants take in water through their roots. They release water vapor from their leaves. Water keeps moving. It can follow different paths through the cycle.

Word help

Evaporation	Liquid water changing into water vapor.
Condensation	Water vapor changing into liquid drops.
Precipitation	Water falling from clouds, such as rain or snow.

Read, find, explain

1. What happens during evaporation?

2. What are two examples of precipitation?

3. What are two things water can do after it reaches land?

Underline a sentence that helped you answer. You may answer aloud, with a drawing, or in writing.

The Water Cycle

Follow cause and sequence in a more connected passage.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The water cycle describes how water moves between Earth's surface and the atmosphere. Energy from the Sun causes some liquid water in lakes, rivers, and oceans to evaporate, changing into an invisible gas called water vapor. When moist air cools, water vapor can condense into tiny liquid droplets. Clouds can contain these droplets or ice crystals. When cloud droplets or ice particles grow large enough, water returns to the surface as precipitation, such as rain or snow. Some water flows over the land into streams, while some soaks into the ground. Plants also take in water through their roots and release water vapor from their leaves. These processes happen again and again, so water can follow different paths through the cycle.

Word help

Atmosphere	The layer of gases around Earth.
Condense	Change from a gas into a liquid.
Precipitation	Water falling from clouds to the surface.

Read, find, explain

1. How does energy from the Sun help water move into the atmosphere?

2. What change can happen when moist air cools?

3. Use evidence from the passage to explain why water does not always follow one fixed route.

Underline a sentence that helped you answer. You may answer aloud, with a drawing, or in writing.

One idea. Different supports.

Choose by student need, not by a fixed grade label. These versions do not have certified grade-level or Lexile measurements.

Quick use

Preview the vocabulary. Assign a suitable version or read together. Ask students to point to evidence, then explain the same science idea. Keep an appropriate challenge; shorter does not always mean easier.

Answer key - accept accurate paraphrases

A / SHORT SENTENCES

1. The Sun.
2. Tiny liquid drops and tiny ice crystals.
3. Through their roots.

B / CORE SCIENCE WORDS

1. Liquid water changes into water vapor, a gas.
2. Rain and snow.
3. It can flow into streams or soak into the ground.

C / CONNECT THE PROCESSES

1. Solar energy causes liquid water to evaporate into water vapor.
2. Water vapor can condense into tiny liquid droplets.
3. Water can flow into streams, soak into the ground, or move through plants; the passage says it can follow different paths.

Original passage

Version C on page 3 is the complete original demonstration passage. Compare it with versions A and B to check that essential science ideas remain intact.

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Science reference: [NASA - The Water Cycle](#). Worked example:

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