

THE WATER CYCLE

Water moves in a never-ending cycle from the Earth to the sky and back again.

1 EVAPORATION

Sunlight heats water in oceans, lakes, and rivers, turning it into water vapor that rises into the air.



2 CONDENSATION

Water vapor cools in the air and changes back into tiny droplets, forming clouds.



3 PRECIPITATION

When droplets in the clouds grow larger and heavier, they fall to Earth as rain, snow, sleet, or hail.



4 COLLECTION

Water collects in lakes, rivers, and oceans. Some seeps into the ground, stored as groundwater, and the cycle begins again.



FUN FACT!

Every drop you drink, shower with, or see in the rain has been on Earth for billions of years!

