

The water that is on Earth has been here for billions of years. It was here before the dinosaurs and will probably be here for millions of years to come. This means that any water you drink was probably once dinosaur wee!

Water isn't always a liquid. The water cycle shows the different stages that water goes through on its journey.

Precipitation

Precipitation is the scientific term for water falling from the sky. This is usually in the form of rain, snow or hail. This is the way that water returns to the ground from the sky.

Collection

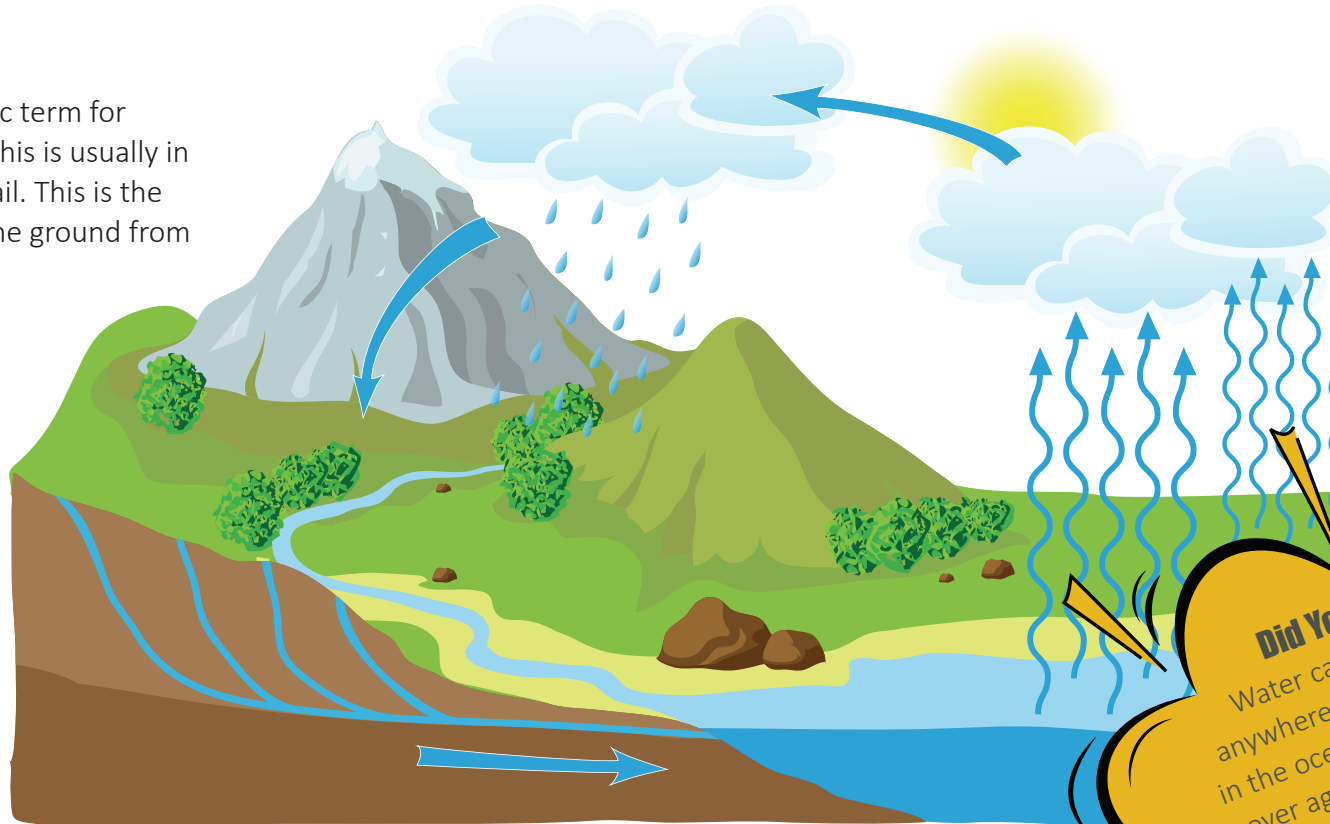
Water flows downhill. It runs down mountains in rivers and streams. Most of these end in the oceans. Some water is absorbed underground. This water still makes its way back to the oceans but it takes a lot longer.

Condensation

Evaporated water meets cold air in the sky. This causes it to turn back into tiny water droplets. This is called **condensation**. You can see this happening on a warm window on a cold morning, or when you see your breath in the cold air. This process forms clouds.

Evaporation

The heat from the sun causes water to **evaporate**. This turns it into a gas. The gas then rises up into the sky. Water evaporates at any temperature above freezing. It happens a lot quicker at warmer temperatures. That's why clothes dry more quickly in the sun than the shade.



Did You Know?

Water can **evaporate** from anywhere. It doesn't have to be in the ocean to begin the cycle all over again. Studies have shown that rivers and oceans provide 90% of the moisture in the air!



VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Which word in the title tells you that water keeps going through the same stages?
2. Which word describes water falling from the sky?
3. Find a word that tells you how water moves downhill.
4. When water evaporates it turns into a:

Gas

Cloud

River

5. Write a definition for “droplets”.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

R

Where can you see condensation happening?

S

Describe how water forms clouds.

R

How much of the moisture in the air is caused by evaporaton from rivers and oceans?

E

Why has the author underlined some words? What is special about these words?

S

Write a paragraph summarising the key stages of the water cycle.