



Name: _____

The Water Cycle

The water cycle is a remarkable process that keeps the Earth's water flowing and recycling. Imagine if we had to make new water every time we needed a drink or to water our plants - it would be a lot of work! Luckily, the water cycle takes care of that for us.

The water cycle begins with a process called **evaporation**. This is when the Sun's heat turns water from rivers, lakes, and even the ocean into invisible water vapor. Water vapor rises up into the sky as tiny, invisible water droplets.

As water vapor rises, it cools and starts to change back into tiny water droplets. This is called **condensation**. These droplets come together to form clouds. Have you ever looked up and seen fluffy white clouds? Those are made of condensed water droplets!



When the clouds become heavy and full, the water droplets fall back to Earth as **precipitation**. Precipitation can take the form of rain, snow, sleet, or hail, depending on the temperature. It's like nature's way of giving the Earth a drink!

Some of the precipitation flows over the ground as runoff, finding its way into streams, rivers, and eventually, the oceans. This is called **collection**. Other water soaks into the ground, replenishing underground water sources like aquifers. The water cycle ensures that water reaches every corner of the Earth.

The amazing thing about the water cycle is that it's never-ending. Water evaporates, forms clouds, falls as precipitation, and the process starts all over again. It's like a giant, natural recycling system for Earth's water.

The water cycle is essential for life on our planet. It provides us with the water we drink, grows our crops, and fills our rivers and oceans. So, next time you take a sip of water or watch a rainstorm, remember that you're witnessing the incredible journey of water in the water cycle - nature's way of keeping our world hydrated and flourishing

Name: _____

1. What is the text structure of this passage?

description

cause and effect

compare and contrast

problem and solution

sequence

2. What is evaporation? (highlight text evidence)

3. What causes water droplets to fall back to Earth? (highlight text evidence)

4. Label the water cycle diagram below using: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.

