



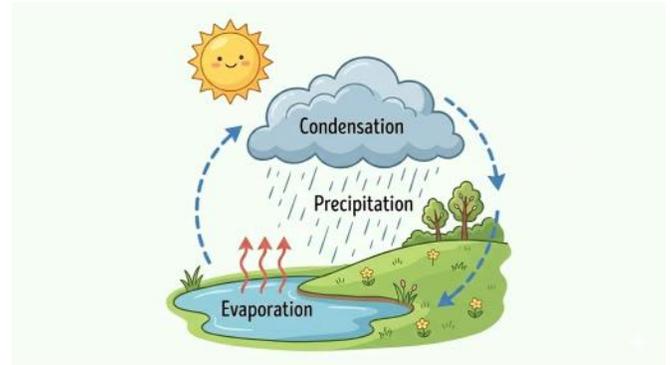
Name: _____

Spring Weather: A Season of Change

If you look out your window in the spring, you might see bright sunshine one minute and a gray rainstorm the next! Spring is what scientists call a transition season. This means the environment is moving from the cold, icy days of winter toward the hot, sunny days of summer. Because the Earth is changing so much during these months, the weather can be very exciting and full of surprises.

Why is it so Rainy?

You may have heard the old saying, "April showers bring May flowers." Spring is famous for being a damp and soggy season. As the air gets warmer, it is able to hold more moisture (tiny drops of water). When that warm, wet air meets the leftover cold air from winter, the water inside the air turns into clouds and falls as rain.



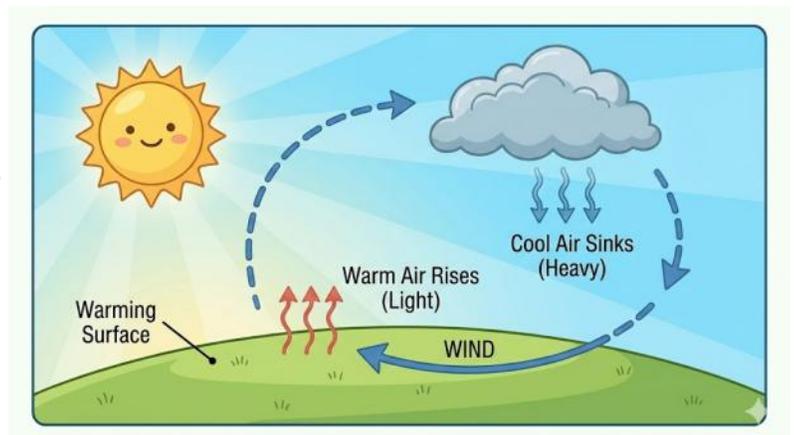
The water cycle

This process is a vital part of the water cycle. The rain is very important because it soaks deep into the soil to reach thirsty seeds that have been "sleeping" all winter. Without these spring showers, the plants wouldn't have the energy they need to sprout.

The Power of Wind

Spring is also the windiest season of the year! Wind is simply air in a hurry. Because the temperature on the ground is changing so quickly, the air starts to move around a lot. Warm air is light and likes to rise high into the sky, while cool air is heavy and sinks toward the ground.

When these different types of air swap places, they create a breeze. This is why spring is the perfect time to fly a kite! However, if the air moves too fast, it can create powerful thunderstorms or even "gusts" that can knock down tree branches.



Cold air sinks and warm air rises



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Warmer Days and Longer Light

The biggest reason for spring weather is the way our planet moves. During the spring, our part of the Earth begins to tilt toward the sun. This makes the sun's rays hit us more directly, which warms up the ground and the air much faster than in the winter.

The sun also stays up longer each day. This is why you might notice that it is still light outside when you are eating dinner or getting ready for bed. More sunlight means more energy for the Earth to grow and change.

1. What is the main idea of the section titled "Why is it so Rainy?"
 - A) April is the only month out of the year when it is allowed to rain.
 - B) Rain is created when warm and cold air meet, providing water for plants.
 - C) Thirsty seeds are the primary reason the sky turns gray and cloudy.
 - D) Winter air is much better at holding moisture than warm spring air.
2. Which word from the text describes a season that is "moving from one state to another"?
 - A) Moisture
 - B) Directly
 - C) Transition
 - D) Vital
3. According to the passage, why does the air "move around a lot" in the spring?
 - A) Because birds are flapping their wings as they migrate north.
 - B) Because the sun stays out later in the evening.
 - C) Because warm air rises and cool air sinks as temperatures change.
 - D) Because the rain pushes the air out of the way as it falls.
4. How does the Earth's tilt affect the weather during the spring months?
 - A) It causes the sun to move further away from the planet.
 - B) It makes the sun's rays hit the Earth more directly, warming the air.
 - C) It stops the wind from blowing so people can fly kites.
 - D) It causes the moon to stay out during the daytime.



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5. Based on the passage, what can you conclude would happen to seeds if there were no spring "showers"?
- (A) They would grow into flowers much faster to stay dry.
 - B) They would likely stay dormant because they lack the water needed to sprout.
 - C) They would turn into bulbs to stay safe from the sun.
 - D) They would migrate to a different part of the forest.
6. The text mentions that warm air can hold more moisture. Using this fact, why might a very warm spring day lead to a big rainstorm?
- A) The warm air collects more water, which then falls when it meets cold air.
 - B) The sun gets too hot and melts the clouds into water.
 - C) The wind blows the moisture away before it can turn into rain.
 - D) Warm air is too heavy to stay in the sky, so it falls as rain.
7. "April showers bring May flowers" is a common saying. How does the science in the passage support this?
- A) It proves that flowers only exist during the month of May.
 - B) It explains that seeds need the moisture from rain to grow and bloom.
 - C) It shows that the wind is what carries the flowers into the garden.
 - D) It explains that the sun is not important for plants, only the rain is.
8. What is a potential danger of spring weather mentioned in the text?
- A) The sun staying out too late and making people tired.
 - B) Strong winds that can lead to thunderstorms or falling branches.
 - C) Seeds growing too large and taking up too much space.
 - D) The air becoming too light for kites to stay in the sky.