



Name _____
Date _____

Grade 5
Worksheet 1

What is the Water Cycle? The water cycle is a way that water moves all around the Earth. It never stops, it does not have a beginning or an end. It's like a big circle!

So how can we understand this magical process called the water cycle?

There are four main parts to the water cycle: Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation and Runoff.

1) Evaporation

Evaporation is when the sun heats up water in rivers or lakes or the ocean and turns it into vapour or steam. The water vapour or steam leaves the river, lake or ocean and goes into the air.

2) Condensation

Condensation in the water cycle is when the air near the surface is heated, then rises taking heat with it. Water vapour in the air gets cold and changes back into liquid, forming clouds. This is called condensation.

3) Precipitation

Precipitation occurs when so much water has condensed that the air cannot hold it

anymore. The clouds get heavy and water falls back to the earth in the form of rain,

hail, sleet or snow.

4) Runoff (Collection)

A lot of the Earth's water does not take part in the water cycle very often. Much of it is stored. The Earth stores water in a number of places. The ocean is the largest storage of water. Around 96% of the Earth's water is stored in the ocean. We can't drink the salty ocean water, so fortunately for us, freshwater is also stored in lakes, glaciers, snow caps, rivers, and below the ground in **groundwater** storage.



Did you know?

- The water cycle is also known as the “hydrologic cycle”
- Earth has been recycling water for over 4 billion years!
- Do plants sweat? Well, sort of.... People perspire (sweat) and plants transpire.
- Transpiration is the process by which plants lose water out of their leaves.

1. The four stages of the water cycle are: _____
_____ and
_____.

2. The water cycle is also called the _____
cycle.

3. T_____ is the process by which plants lose
water out of their leaves.

4. Match the following words to the correct meaning

Evaporation

storage of water

Condensation

water has condensed as
the air cannot hold it
anymore

Collection

sun heats up water in
rivers and turns it into
vapour

Precipitation

air near the surface is
heated and rises taking
heat with it

5. Circle what percentage of water is stored in the earth's ocean.

80%

96%

100%

10%

precipitation

condensation

collection

evaporation



Water falls to the ground.

Water runs downhill to form lakes and oceans.

The sun's heat turns water into a gas called water vapor.

Water vapor gathers to form clouds.
