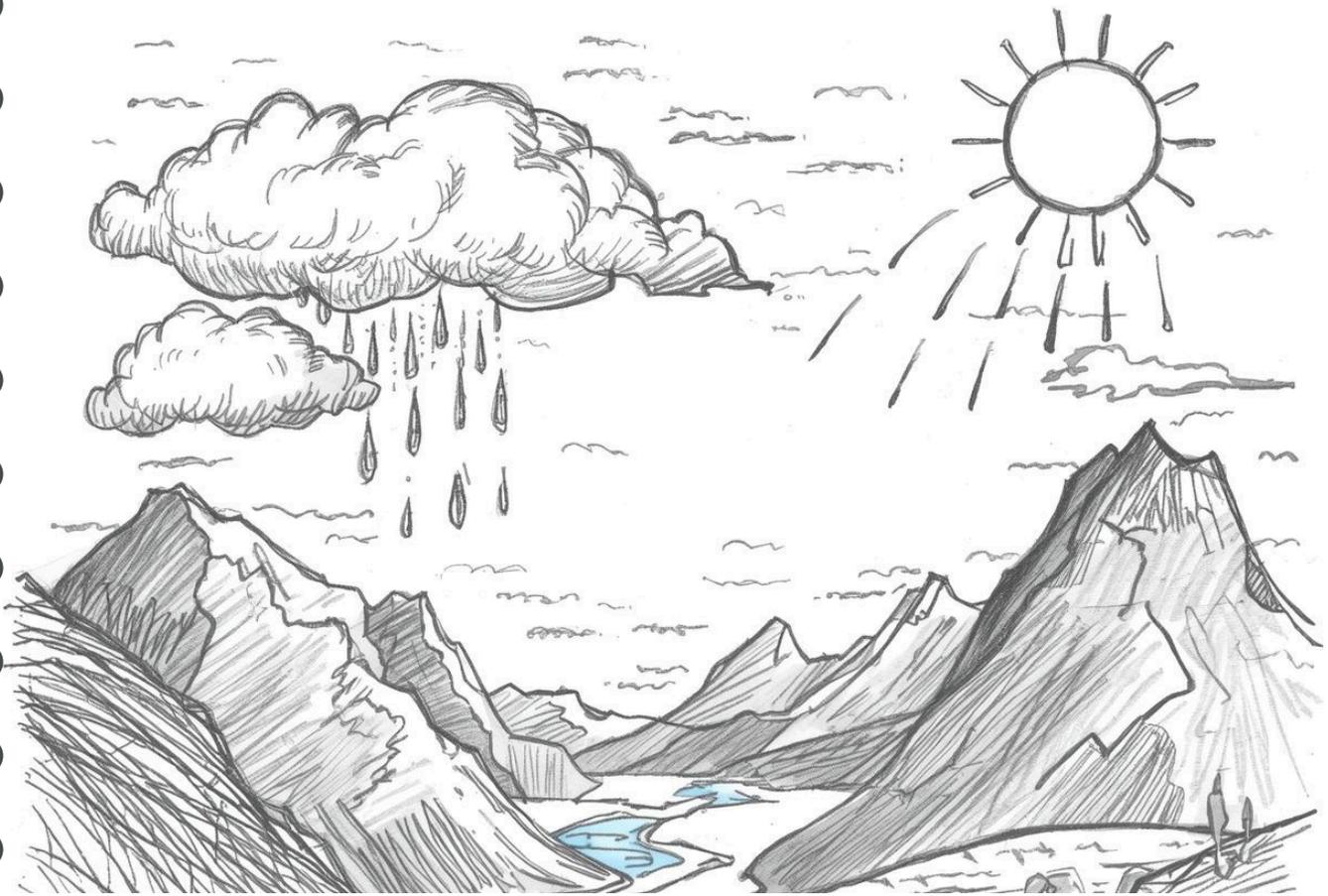


Name: _____

The Water Cycle



Water is one of the most important resources on Earth. It is necessary for all living things, including people, animals, and plants. But have you ever wondered how water moves around the Earth and never really “runs out”? This movement of water is called the water cycle, and it is a continuous process that happens all the time. The water cycle has four main stages: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.

1. Evaporation:

Evaporation happens when the Sun heats water in oceans, rivers, lakes, or even puddles. The heat causes the water to change from a liquid into a gas called water vapor. This gas rises into the air. Evaporation is important because it helps clean water. When water evaporates, impurities and dirt are left behind, so the water in the clouds is clean.

2. Condensation:

Once the water vapor rises, it cools down in the upper atmosphere. When the gas cools, it turns back into tiny drops of liquid water. This process is called condensation. These tiny water droplets come together to form clouds. Without condensation, clouds would not form, and rain or snow would not happen.

3. Precipitation:

As the clouds get heavier with water, the water eventually falls back to Earth as precipitation. Precipitation can take different forms depending on the weather. It may be rain, snow, sleet, or hail. Precipitation is essential because it brings fresh water to rivers, lakes, and the ground, providing water for plants, animals, and humans.

4. Collection:

After precipitation, water collects in various places. Some water flows into rivers and lakes, some seeps into the ground and becomes groundwater, and some returns to the oceans. This stage is called collection. The water then starts its journey all over again through evaporation.

The water cycle is a never-ending process that keeps our planet alive. It ensures that there is always water available in different forms, helps plants grow, provides drinking water, and even influences weather patterns. Without the water cycle, life on Earth would not survive.

A. Multiple Choice (Choose the correct answer):

What causes water to turn into vapor in the first stage of the water cycle?

- a) The wind
- b) The Sun's heat
- c) Snow
- d) Ice

What is the name of the process when water vapor cools and forms clouds?

- a) Evaporation
- b) Collection
- c) Condensation
- d) Precipitation

Which of the following is a type of precipitation?

- a) Rain
- b) Evaporation
- c) Condensation
- d) Solar energy

Where does water go after precipitation?

- a) Into clouds only
- b) Into rivers, lakes, oceans, or underground
- c) Into the Sun
- d) It disappears

Answer the following questions:

8. Explain what happens during evaporation.

9. Why is condensation important for cloud formation?

10. Name two places where water is collected after precipitation.

11. Why is the water cycle important for life on Earth?

12. What are the four main stages of the water cycle?

True or False:

- 5. Evaporation helps clean water by leaving impurities behind. _____
- 6. The water cycle is a one-time process that stops after it rains. _____
- 7. Precipitation provides water for plants, animals, and humans. _____