

Water Cycle Interactive Diagram

Go to: <https://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids-adv.html>

There is a lot going on in this diagram, so take your time and click through it. As you mouse over things, an information box will pop up. At the bottom of many of the boxes are links where you can learn more about key concepts.

Start with the water drop in the corner.

1. Life on Earth depends on freshwater. How much of Earth's water is fresh?

2.5%

2. Where is most of the rest of the water?

The ocean

3. What does the sun have to do with the water cycle?

The sun's energy breaks apart tightly-held water molecules, which results in water vapor. Also, the sun's energy can cause winds, which move clouds and weather around.

4. What is evaporation?

It is the process that changes liquid and frozen water into water vapor gas.

5. What is condensation?

The process that changes water vapor gas back into liquid water and ice, such as clouds, rain and snow.

6. What is precipitation?

Rain, snow or hail. It is caused when cloud droplets combine to form heavier cloud drops that can no longer "float" above the surrounding air.

7. What is runoff?

When rain water flows over the land surface, going downhill (due to gravity). It can go to rivers, lakes and the ocean.

8. What are infiltration and seepage?

When water soaks into the ground due to gravity.

9. What is transpiration (under evapotranspiration)? Where does it occur?

When plants “breathe” tiny holes in the leaves allow water to leave and go into the air.

10. Water underground moves, due to __gravity_____, downward and sideways.

11. Plants mostly depend on _____water in the ground_____ for their needs, not rainfall directly.

12. According to the information on the diagram, what are some ways rivers affect other spheres?

Rivers lose water through their streambeds into the ground (geosphere). Also plants, animals and people (biosphere) interact with rivers .

13. How do ice caps influence weather?

The color white reflects sunlight (heat) more than darker colors, and as ice is so white, sunlight is reflected back out to the sky, which helps to create weather patterns.

14. What was the most interesting thing you learned about the water cycle?

Answers will vary