

The Water Cycle

- *Level and age*: basic (elementary school: around 10 years old)
- *Aim*: To show the students how the water cycle works (following the trend to teach subjects other than English through this language) and to teach them the vocabulary connected to this natural process
- *Focus*: on active participation and usage of technologies to motivate the students; on meaningful knowledge achieved by using visual/aural material
- *Time*: 1 or 2 sessions (depending on where the follow-on is carried out in class or outside as a homework)
- *Materials*: computer and video are necessary; also an ordinary blackboard

1. **Warming-up**: The teacher asks the students what they know about the water cycle (which they may have studied and have some idea about). Since they are not supposed to be able to express in English, they can do it in their mother tongue, but trying to say the keywords related to this process in English. When the learner does not know the word, the teacher tells him and writes it down on the blackboard.

2. **Activity**: Having some of the vocabulary on the blackboard, the teacher tells the students to take down all those new words they will see in the 3 minutes-long video that s/he is going to play, where the water cycle is explained.

http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/studyjams/water_cycle/

After watching the video, the teacher asks for the new words and writes them on the blackboard. Then, s/he reads aloud 5 definitions and asks the students which word corresponds to each:

evaporation

When a liquid changes into a vapor or gas.

condensation

The process of a gas turning into a liquid.

precipitation

The falling of water from the sky in the form of rain, sleet, hail, or snow.

transpiration

The process by which plants give off moisture into the atmosphere.

vapor

A gas formed from something that is usually a liquid or solid at normal temperatures. Clouds are made of condensed vapor.

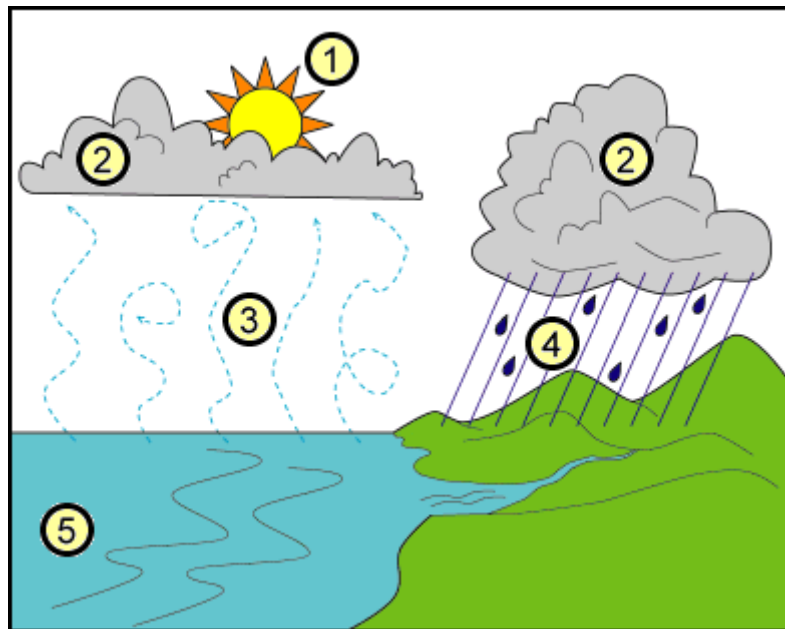
Later, they have to enter the website

http://education.jlab.org/reading/water_cycle.html

and complete the following short exercise to consolidate their knowledge in a more sequential way, discerning all concepts properly

The evaporates from lakes and oceans. As the air rises, it cools. The water vapor condenses into tiny droplets of . The droplets crowd together and form a . Wind blows the towards the land. The tiny droplets join together and fall as precipitation to the . The water soaks into the ground and collects in . The that never ends has started again!

3. **Follow-on:** (to be done in another session or at home) The teacher makes groups of 5. S/he gives out a picture representing the water cycle, such as the one below



and tells each of the components to write next to each number the name of the process it represents and briefly explain (1-2 lines) what happens.