

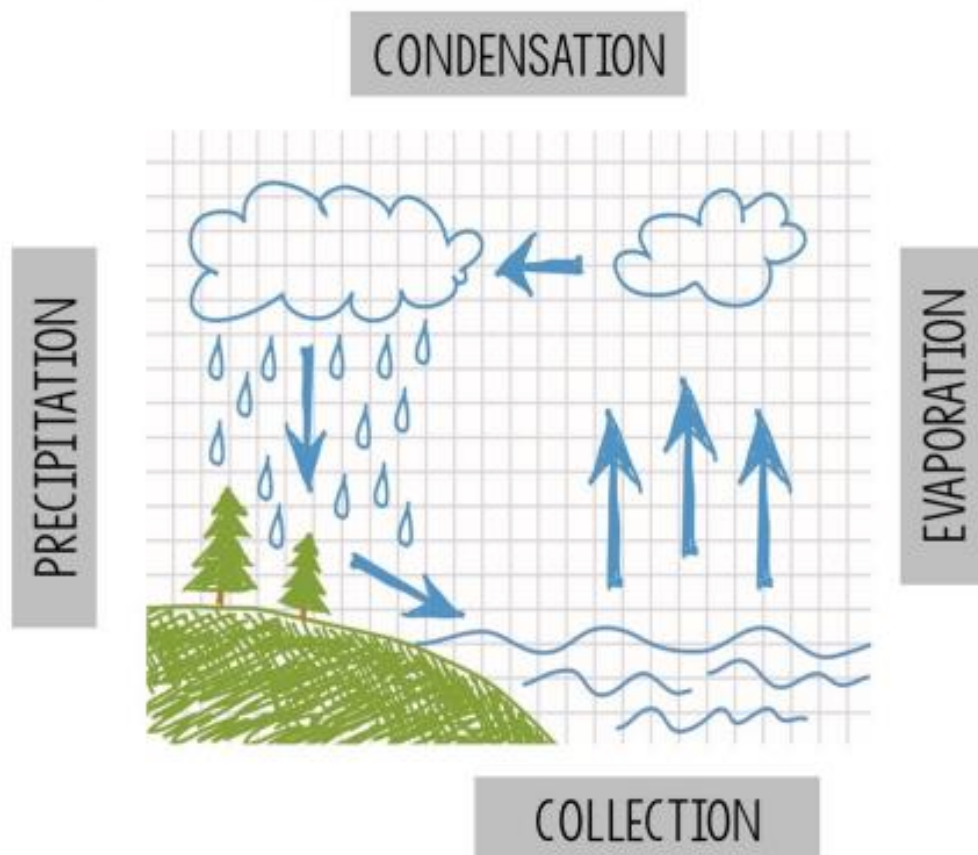
Water Cycle

Precipitation is 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.

Condensation is when water vapor in the air gets cold and changes back into liquid, forming clouds.

Evaporation is when the sun heats up water in rivers, lakes, or oceans and turns it into vapor or steam. The water vapor or steam leaves and goes into the air.

Collection is when precipitation collects on earth. It may collect in oceans, rivers, lakes, or ponds. It may soak into the earth and become a part of the ground water.



Name _____

The Water Cycle

Read the passage to answer the questions.

The **water cycle** is the way that water moves all around the earth. It doesn't have a beginning and it never really stops. It keeps going like a big circle. New water is not created. It just takes different forms as it moves through the water cycle.

Water on the surface of the ocean, lakes, or rivers will **evaporate** due to the heat from the sun. When this evaporation occurs, the water turns into water vapor. When this vapor water joins together with a lot of other water vapor, clouds are formed. Clouds are caused by **condensation**, or water vapor turning back into a liquid. These clouds move around the earth with the weather. When the clouds become so full of water, the water drops back to the earth as **precipitation**. This precipitation can be in the form of rain, sleet, snow, hail, and freezing rain. When the water falls back to earth it may flow back into the ocean, feed a garden, or be snow on a mountain. After this collection, the water will evaporate and the whole cycle will begin again.

1. Why doesn't the water cycle stop? _____

2. What makes water evaporate? _____
3. What happens when water vapor joins together with a lot of other water vapor? _____
4. What is condensation? _____

5. Clouds move around the earth with the _____

6. What happens when clouds become full of water? _____

7. What are the different forms of precipitation? _____

8. Where might water go when it lands on earth? _____

Label the water cycle:

evaporation condensation precipitation collection

