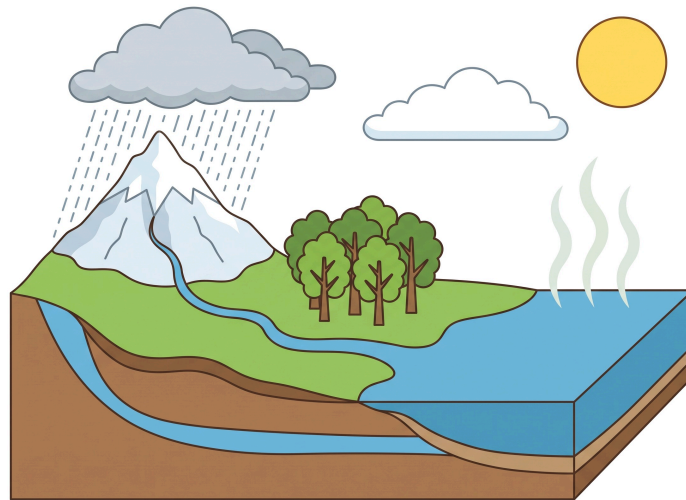


The Water Cycle

How water moves between the oceans, the air and the land



7

printable sheets

17

pages

All

answer keys included

The Water Cycle Teaching Pack

How water moves between the oceans, the air and the land

How to use this pack. The sheets are in a suggested teaching order: show the labeled diagram, have students label the blank one, then work through the practice sheets and finish with the quiz. Use them all over a week or pick the ones you need. The answer keys are together at the back.

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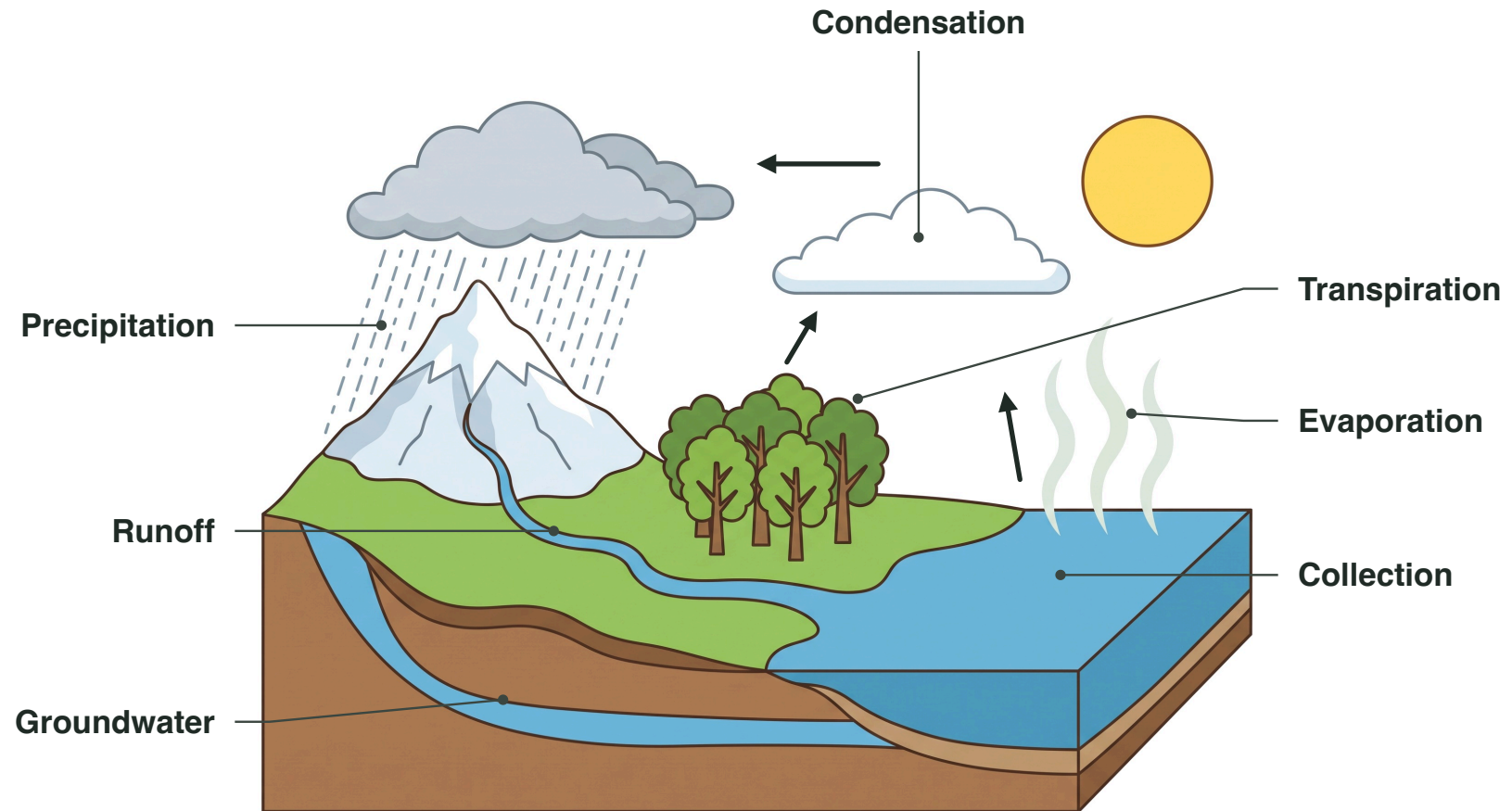
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More free teaching packs. Food Chains and Food Webs, Carbon Cycle and Greenhouse Effect, The Nitrogen Cycle and more at printablescholar.com/teaching-packs/

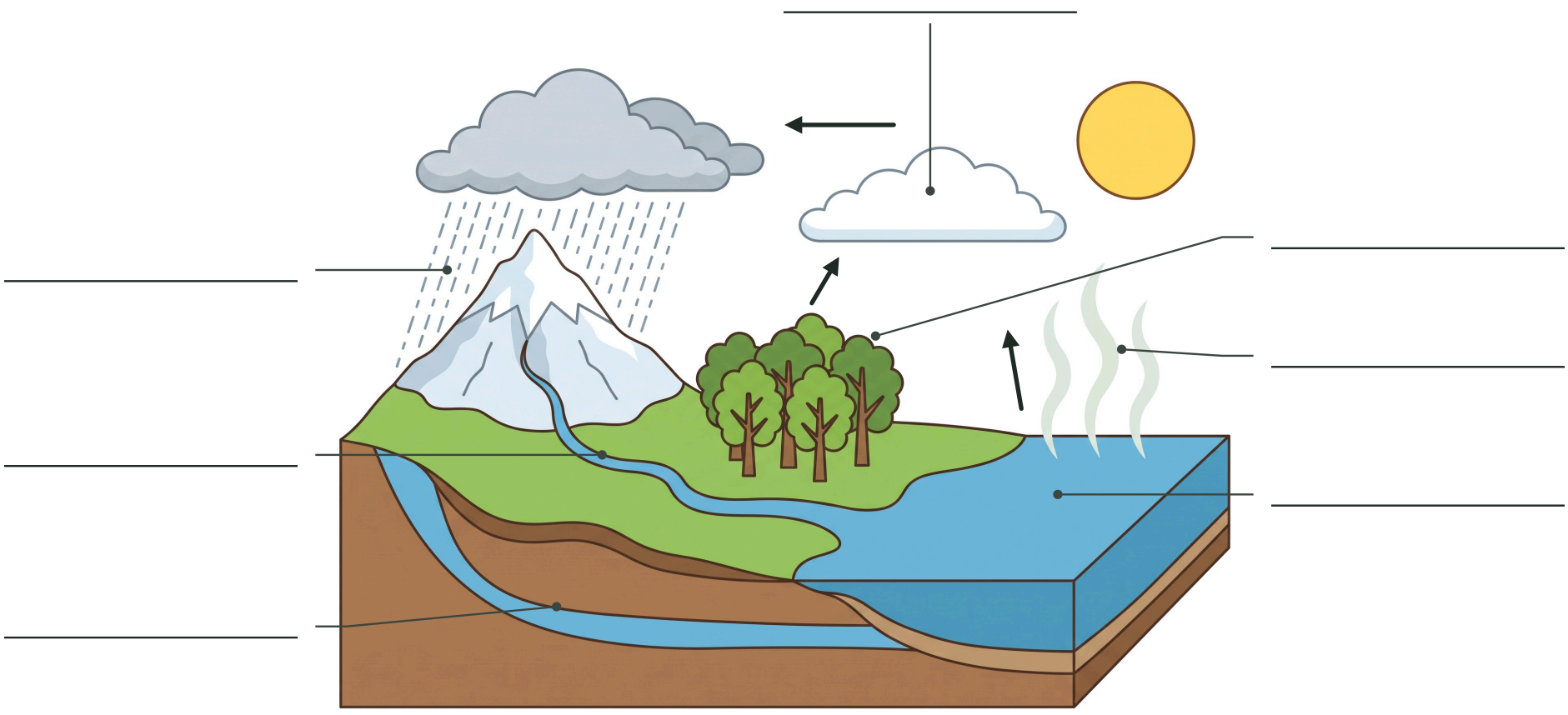
The Water Cycle



The Water Cycle

Name: _____

Write the name of each part on its line. Use the word bank.



Word bank Collection Condensation Evaporation Groundwater Precipitation Runoff Transpiration

Stages of the Water Cycle

Use the labeled water cycle diagram to help you.

Part A. Write the word that fits each description.

Word bank

Collection

Condensation

Evaporation

Groundwater

Precipitation

Runoff

Transpiration

1. Water falls from clouds as rain, snow, sleet or hail. _____
2. Plants release water vapor into the air through their leaves. _____
3. Water flows downhill across the land into rivers, lakes and the ocean. _____
4. The sun's heat turns liquid water from oceans, lakes and rivers into water vapor. _____
5. Water that has soaked into the soil and is stored underground. _____
6. Water vapor cools high in the sky and turns into tiny droplets that form clouds. _____
7. Fallen water gathers in oceans, lakes, rivers and streams. _____

Part B. Answer the questions.

1. Which two stages put water vapor into the air?

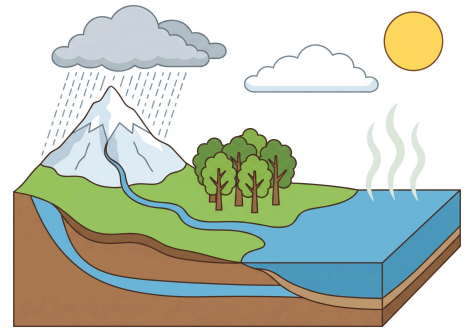
2. Where does the heat that makes water evaporate come from?

3. Rain falls on a hillside. Name two different things that can happen to the water next.

Water on the Move

Read the text. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- 1 The water in today's rain has fallen as rain many times before. Earth's water is used over and over. It moves again and again between the oceans, the air and the land. This never-ending journey is called the **water cycle**. The sun's heat keeps it going.
- 2 The sun warms the water in oceans, lakes and rivers. Some of the liquid water turns into an invisible gas called **water vapor** and rises into the air. This change is **evaporation**. Water does not have to boil to evaporate. A puddle dries up on a cool day too, only more slowly. Plants add water vapor to the air as well. They take in water through their roots and release it through their leaves. This is **transpiration**.
- 3 High in the sky the air is colder. As the water vapor cools, it turns back into tiny droplets of liquid water. This change is **condensation**. Billions of these droplets together make a cloud. So a cloud is not water vapor. It is made of tiny drops of liquid water or tiny ice crystals. You can see condensation at home when drops of water form on the outside of a cold glass.
- 4 Inside a cloud, the droplets bump together and grow. When they get too heavy to stay up, they fall. Water that falls from clouds is called **precipitation**. It can be rain, snow, sleet or hail.
- 5 What happens after the water lands? Some flows downhill over the land into streams and rivers. This is **runoff**. Some soaks into the soil and is stored underground as **groundwater**. Snow may stay frozen on a mountain for months before it melts. In time, most of the water gathers again in lakes and the ocean. This is **collection**. Then the sun warms the water, and the journey starts over.



Water moves between the ocean, the air and the land.

Water on the Move: Questions

Go back to the text to find each answer. The paragraphs are numbered to help you.

1. What is this text mostly about?

- ☐ Why the ocean is salty
- ☐ How water moves between the oceans, the air and the land
- ☐ How plants grow from seeds
- ☐ What to do in a rainstorm

2. What is water vapor?

- ☐ Tiny drops of water in a cloud
- ☐ Water stored underground
- ☐ Water in the form of an invisible gas
- ☐ Rain that has frozen

3. Water does not have to boil to evaporate. What example in the text shows this?

4. What is transpiration?

- ☐ Water falling from clouds
- ☐ Water flowing downhill over the land
- ☐ Water soaking into the soil
- ☐ Plants releasing water vapor through their leaves

5. What is a cloud made of?

- ☐ Water vapor
- ☐ Tiny drops of liquid water or tiny ice crystals
- ☐ Smoke from the ground
- ☐ Air that has turned white

6. Number the steps 1, 2 and 3 to show how rain forms (paragraphs 3 and 4).

- ☐ The droplets bump together and grow.
- ☐ The drops get too heavy to stay up, and they fall.
- ☐ Water vapor cools and turns into tiny droplets.

7. Name the four kinds of precipitation in the text.

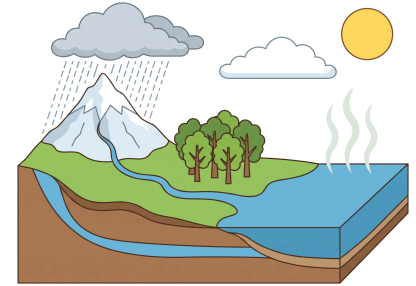
8. What is the difference between runoff and groundwater?

The Journey of a Water Drop

A cycle has no real beginning, so start with water in the ocean. These steps are mixed up. Put them in order.

Part A. Number the steps from 1 to 7.

- ☐ The droplets in the cloud grow heavy and fall on a mountain as rain.
- ☐ Wind carries the cloud over the land.
- ☐ The water evaporates. It becomes water vapor and rises into the air.
- ☐ The sun warms the water at the surface of the ocean.
- ☐ The river carries the water back to the ocean.
- ☐ High in the sky, the water vapor cools and condenses into tiny droplets. A cloud forms.
- ☐ The rainwater runs down the mountain into a river.



Part B. Answer the questions.

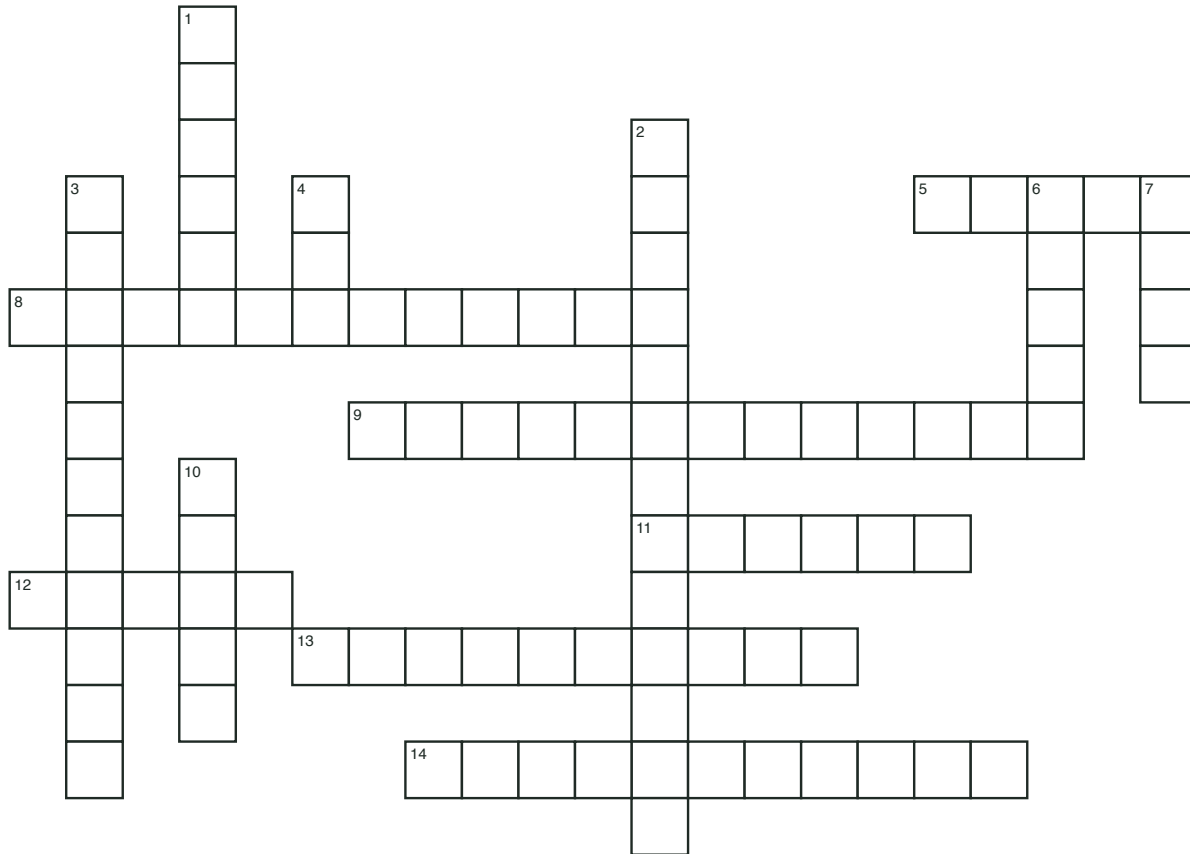
1. In which step does water change from a gas back into a liquid? What is this change called?

2. Not all rain runs into a river. Name one other place the rainwater could go.

3. Why is this journey called a cycle?

Water Cycle Crossword

Read each clue. Write the answer in the puzzle, one letter in each box. Use the word bank if you get stuck.



ACROSS

5. Plants take in water from the soil through these.
8. An invisible gas cools and turns into tiny droplets of liquid water.
9. Rain, snow, sleet or hail.
11. Water that flows downhill across the land.
12. Water ____ is water in the form of an invisible gas.
13. Fallen water gathers in oceans, lakes, rivers and streams.
14. Liquid water turns into an invisible gas and rises into the air.

DOWN

1. The form water has in rain, rivers and the sea.
2. Plants release water vapor into the air through their leaves.
3. Water that has soaked into the soil and is stored below the surface.
4. Its heat makes water evaporate.
6. Most of Earth's water is here.
7. White flakes of ice that fall in cold weather.
10. Billions of tiny water droplets or ice crystals high in the sky.

Word bank

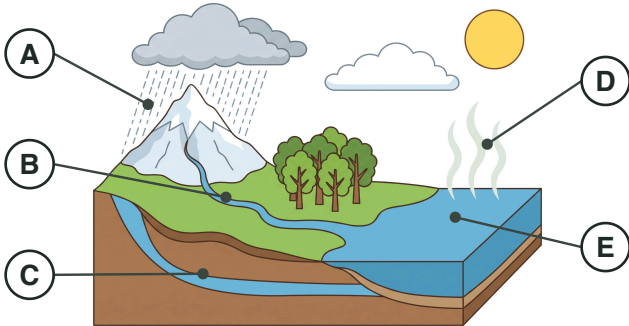
cloud collection condensation evaporation groundwater liquid ocean
precipitation roots runoff snow sun transpiration vapor

Water Cycle Quiz

Score _____ / 13

Show what you know about the water cycle.

Part A. This is the water cycle. Write the name of each stage.



- A _____
B _____
C _____
D _____
E _____

Collection · Evaporation · Groundwater · Precipitation · Runoff

Part B. Choose the best answer.

- What supplies the heat that makes water evaporate?
☐ The wind
☐ The clouds
☐ The sun
☐ The soil
- What is it called when plants release water vapor through their leaves?
☐ Condensation
☐ Transpiration
☐ Precipitation
☐ Collection
- What are clouds made of?
☐ Water vapor
☐ Smoke
☐ Tiny water droplets or ice crystals
☐ Cold air
- Rain, snow, sleet and hail are all kinds of what?
☐ Runoff
☐ Groundwater
☐ Evaporation
☐ Precipitation
- Which change turns water vapor into tiny droplets of liquid water?
☐ Condensation
☐ Evaporation
☐ Runoff
☐ Collection
- A puddle dries up on a cool, cloudy day. What happened to the water?
☐ It boiled.
☐ It evaporated.
☐ It condensed.
☐ It froze.

Part C. Write your answer.

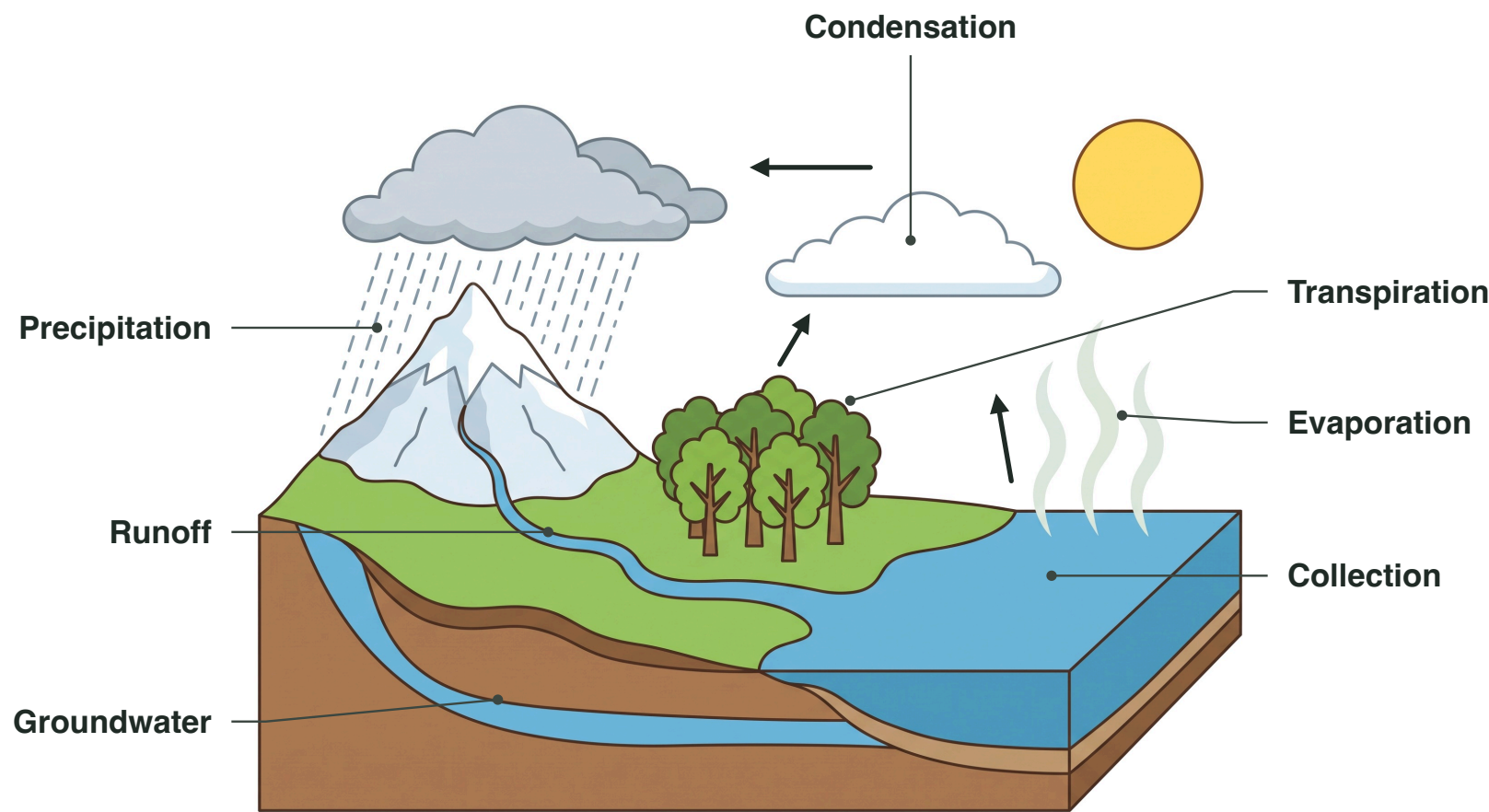
7. What is the difference between evaporation and condensation?

8. Name two places where water collects after it falls as rain.

Answer Keys

In the same order as the sheets.

The Water Cycle: Answer Key



Stages of the Water Cycle: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

Part A. Write the word that fits each description.

Word bank

Collection

Condensation

Evaporation

Groundwater

Precipitation

Runoff

Transpiration

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Water falls from clouds as rain, snow, sleet or hail. | Precipitation |
| 2. Plants release water vapor into the air through their leaves. | Transpiration |
| 3. Water flows downhill across the land into rivers, lakes and the ocean. | Runoff |
| 4. The sun's heat turns liquid water from oceans, lakes and rivers into water vapor. | Evaporation |
| 5. Water that has soaked into the soil and is stored underground. | Groundwater |
| 6. Water vapor cools high in the sky and turns into tiny droplets that form clouds. | Condensation |
| 7. Fallen water gathers in oceans, lakes, rivers and streams. | Collection |

Part B. Answer the questions.

- Which two stages put water vapor into the air?
Evaporation and transpiration.
- Where does the heat that makes water evaporate come from?
From the sun.
- Rain falls on a hillside. Name two different things that can happen to the water next.
It can flow downhill as runoff. It can soak into the soil and become groundwater. (Some may also evaporate or be taken up by plants.)

Water on the Move: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

1. What is this text mostly about?

- ☐ Why the ocean is salty
- ☒ **How water moves between the oceans, the air and the land**
- ☐ How plants grow from seeds
- ☐ What to do in a rainstorm

2. What is water vapor?

- ☐ Tiny drops of water in a cloud
- ☐ Water stored underground
- ☒ **Water in the form of an invisible gas**
- ☐ Rain that has frozen

3. Water does not have to boil to evaporate. What example in the text shows this?

A puddle dries up on a cool day.

4. What is transpiration?

- ☐ Water falling from clouds
- ☐ Water flowing downhill over the land
- ☐ Water soaking into the soil
- ☒ **Plants releasing water vapor through their leaves**

5. What is a cloud made of?

- ☐ Water vapor
- ☒ **Tiny drops of liquid water or tiny ice crystals**
- ☐ Smoke from the ground
- ☐ Air that has turned white

6. Number the steps 1, 2 and 3 to show how rain forms (paragraphs 3 and 4).

- 2

 The droplets bump together and grow.
- 3

 The drops get too heavy to stay up, and they fall.
- 1

 Water vapor cools and turns into tiny droplets.

7. Name the four kinds of precipitation in the text.

Rain, snow, sleet and hail.

8. What is the difference between runoff and groundwater?

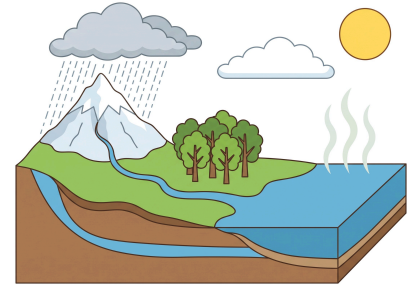
Runoff flows downhill over the land. Groundwater soaks into the soil and is stored underground.

The Journey of a Water Drop: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

Part A. Number the steps from 1 to 7.

- 5** The droplets in the cloud grow heavy and fall on a mountain as rain.
- 4** Wind carries the cloud over the land.
- 2** The water evaporates. It becomes water vapor and rises into the air.
- 1** The sun warms the water at the surface of the ocean.
- 7** The river carries the water back to the ocean.
- 3** High in the sky, the water vapor cools and condenses into tiny droplets. A cloud forms.
- 6** The rainwater runs down the mountain into a river.



Part B. Answer the questions.

1. In which step does water change from a gas back into a liquid? What is this change called?

When the water vapor cools and forms tiny droplets. It is called condensation.

2. Not all rain runs into a river. Name one other place the rainwater could go.

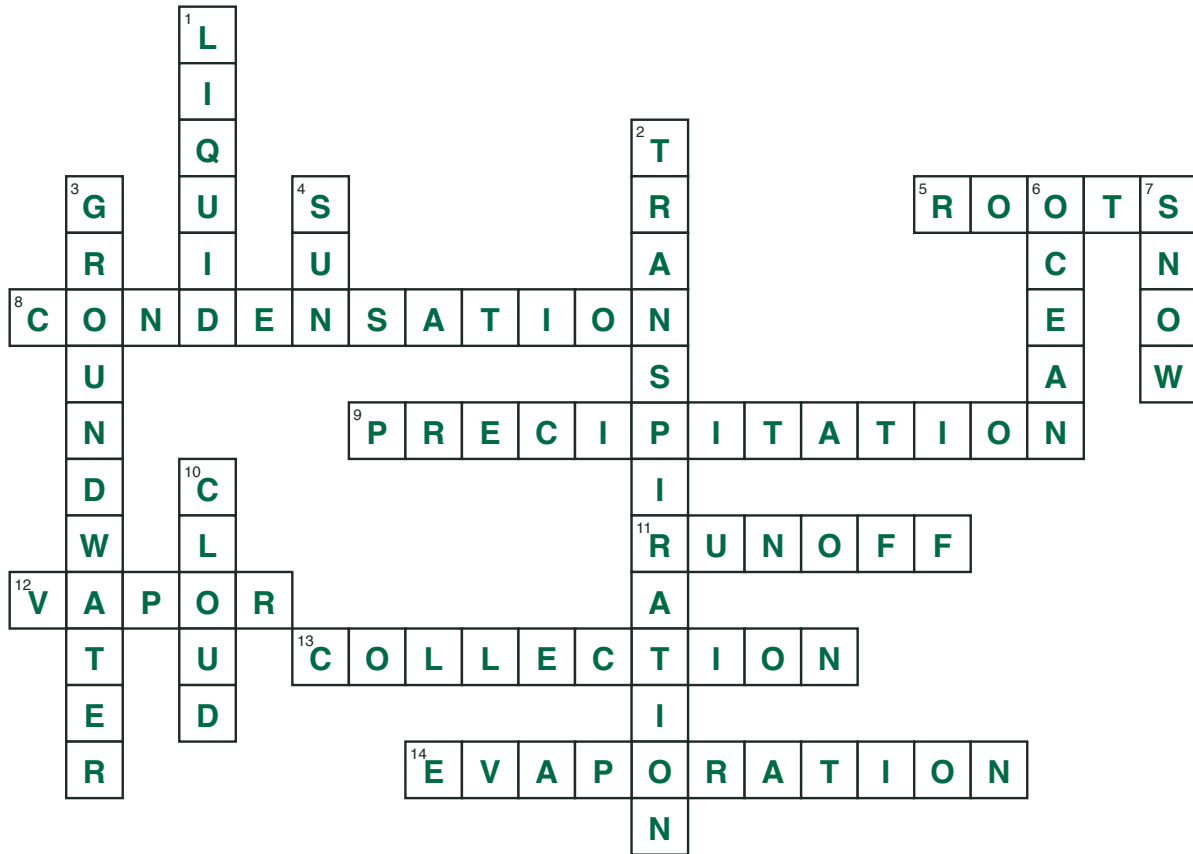
It could soak into the soil and become groundwater. (Or plants could take it up, or it could evaporate.)

3. Why is this journey called a cycle?

The water ends up back where it started, in the ocean. Then the same steps happen again. The journey has no end.

Water Cycle Crossword: Answer Key

Answers are in green.



ACROSS

5. Plants take in water from the soil through these.
8. An invisible gas cools and turns into tiny droplets of liquid water.
9. Rain, snow, sleet or hail.
11. Water that flows downhill across the land.
12. Water ____ is water in the form of an invisible gas.
13. Fallen water gathers in oceans, lakes, rivers and streams.
14. Liquid water turns into an invisible gas and rises into the air.

DOWN

1. The form water has in rain, rivers and the sea.
2. Plants release water vapor into the air through their leaves.
3. Water that has soaked into the soil and is stored below the surface.
4. Its heat makes water evaporate.
6. Most of Earth's water is here.
7. White flakes of ice that fall in cold weather.
10. Billions of tiny water droplets or ice crystals high in the sky.

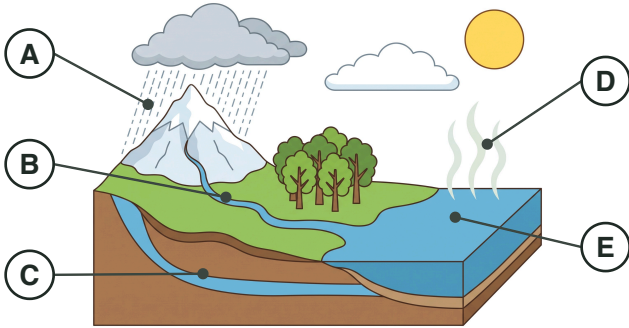
Word bank

cloud collection condensation evaporation groundwater liquid ocean
precipitation roots runoff snow sun transpiration vapor

Water Cycle Quiz: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

Part A. This is the water cycle. Write the name of each stage.



A **Precipitation**

B **Runoff**

C **Groundwater**

D **Evaporation**

E **Collection**

Collection · Evaporation · Groundwater · Precipitation · Runoff

Part B. Choose the best answer.

1. What supplies the heat that makes water evaporate?

- ☐ The wind
- ☐ The clouds
- ☒ **The sun**
- ☐ The soil

2. What is it called when plants release water vapor through their leaves?

- ☐ Condensation
- ☒ **Transpiration**
- ☐ Precipitation
- ☐ Collection

3. What are clouds made of?

- ☐ Water vapor
- ☐ Smoke
- ☒ **Tiny water droplets or ice crystals**
- ☐ Cold air

4. Rain, snow, sleet and hail are all kinds of what?

- ☐ Runoff
- ☐ Groundwater
- ☐ Evaporation
- ☒ **Precipitation**

5. Which change turns water vapor into tiny droplets of liquid water?

- ☒ **Condensation**
- ☐ Evaporation
- ☐ Runoff
- ☐ Collection

6. A puddle dries up on a cool, cloudy day. What happened to the water?

- ☒ **It evaporated.**
- ☐ It boiled.
- ☐ It condensed.
- ☐ It froze.

Part C. Write your answer.

7. What is the difference between evaporation and condensation?

In evaporation, liquid water turns into water vapor. In condensation, water vapor turns back into liquid water.

8. Name two places where water collects after it falls as rain.

Any two: oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, underground (groundwater).