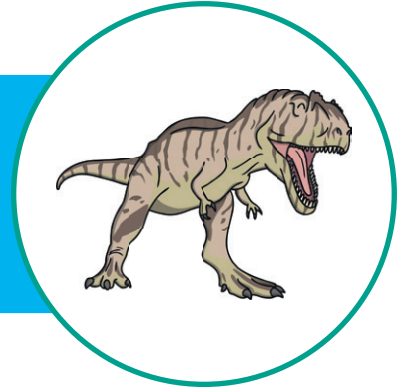


The Water Cycle

The Earth always has the same amount of water. This water moves through stages, called the water cycle. The water cycle is important to life on Earth, and the Sun plays an important role in the cycle.

Did You Know...?

The water you drink today could have been used in a dinosaur's bath!



Accumulation

Accumulation is water stored in rivers, lakes, oceans, and in the soil. Oceans hold most of the Earth's water. Groundwater is in the soil and is absorbed by roots to help plants grow.

Evaporation

Evaporation happens when the Sun heats up water and turns it into water vapour. Water vapour is a gas in the air. Water can be evaporated from plants. This is called transpiration.

Condensation

When water vapour is in the air, it cools and turns back to a liquid. This is called condensation. Water droplets in the air form clouds. But even on a clear day, there is always water in the air.

Precipitation

When more water joins the clouds, they get heavy. The water falls back to Earth, which is called precipitation. Precipitation gives water to plants and animals. Precipitation can be:

rain

hail

sleet

snow

Questions

1. Match each word to the correct definition.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Precipitation | Water stored in lakes and oceans. |
| Evaporation | Rain, snow, sleet or hail |
| Accumulation | Water vapour cools and returns to liquid. |
| Condensation | The sun heats up water and it becomes water vapour (a gas). |
| Transpiration | Water evaporated from a plant. |

2. Check the true statements.

- ☐ The Earth always has the same amount of water.
- ☐ The Moon is important to the water cycle.
- ☐ Oceans hold most of the Earth's water.

3. List the four stages of the water cycle.

| | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |

4. What are clouds formed of?
