



# The Water Cycle



Fill in the blanks below with words from this box:

evaporation	sunny	precipitate	condenses
evaporates	clouds	vapor	atmosphere
heating	heavy	oceans	lakes
droplets	plants	hail	glaciers
runoff	snow	cycle	crystals
rain	rivers	streams	

## Evaporation

On a warm, \_\_\_\_\_ day, water in a glass of water seems to slowly disappear. This is because the energy from the sun is \_\_\_\_\_ the water up and turning the liquid water into water \_\_\_\_\_. This process is called \_\_\_\_\_. When the water \_\_\_\_\_, it becomes an invisible gas in the \_\_\_\_\_. Evaporation takes place all over the earth, but especially in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ where there is lots of water.

## Condensation

As the water vapor rises, it cools off and \_\_\_\_\_ into water \_\_\_\_\_. If the water vapor becomes extremely cold, it will form ice \_\_\_\_\_ instead of water droplets. As the water droplets or ice crystals grow bigger and more numerous, they form \_\_\_\_\_.

## Precipitation

If water droplets or ice crystals become too \_\_\_\_\_, they can't stay in the air. They \_\_\_\_\_. Water droplets precipitate as \_\_\_\_\_ and ice crystals precipitate as \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes, the rain freezes before it hits the earth and precipitates as \_\_\_\_\_.



## Runoff

This precipitation gathers into \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that flow down to the lakes and oceans. This is called \_\_\_\_\_. Not all of the water makes it back to the oceans and lakes right away. Some of it is used by animals and \_\_\_\_\_. Some is frozen into \_\_\_\_\_. Eventually, the animals and plants breathe the water out and the glaciers melt, releasing the water back into the water \_\_\_\_\_.