



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, **S**_____ day, water in a glass of water seems to slowly disappear. This is because the energy from the sun is **h**_____ the water up and turning the liquid water into water **v**_____. This process is called **e**_____. When the water **e**_____, it becomes an invisible gas in the **a**_____. Evaporation takes places all over the earth, but especially in the **l**_____ and **o**_____ where there is lots of water.

Condensation

As the water vapor rises, it cools off and **C**_____ into water **d**_____. If the water vapor becomes extremely cold, it will form ice **C**_____ 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 **h**_____, they can't stay in the air. They **r**_____. Water droplets precipitate as **r**_____ and ice crystals precipitate as **S**_____. Sometimes, the rain freezes before it hits the earth and precipitates as **h**_____.



Runoff

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

