



# The Water Cycle



Fill in the blanks below with words from this box:

evaporates  
heating  
droplets  
rain

sunny  
heavy  
plants  
snow

oceans  
cycle  
streams

glaciers  
crystals

## 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 vapour. This process is called evaporation. When the water e\_\_\_\_\_, it becomes an invisible gas in the atmosphere. Evaporation takes place all over the earth, but especially in the lakes and o\_\_\_\_\_ where there is lots of water.

## Condensation

As the water vapour rises, it cools off and condenses into water d\_\_\_\_\_. If the water vapour 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 clouds.

## Precipitation

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



## Runoff

This precipitation gathers into rivers and s\_\_\_\_\_ that flow down to the lakes and oceans. 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\_\_\_\_\_.