

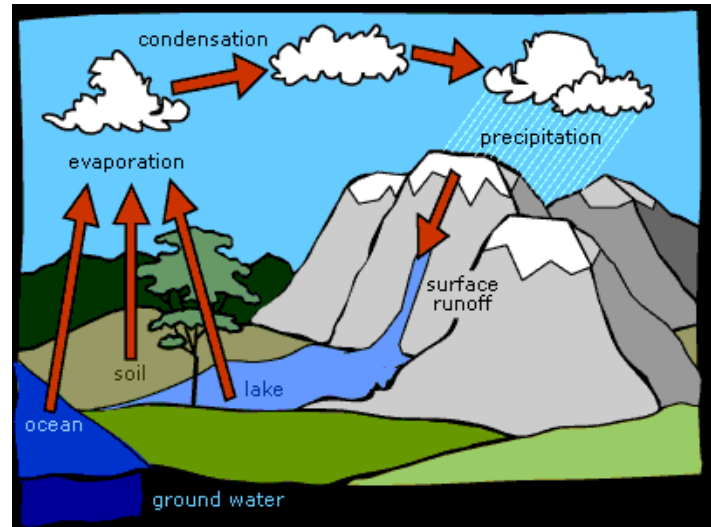
The Water Cycle

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Water on Earth is always changing. Its repeating changes make a cycle. As water goes through its cycle, it can be a solid (ice), a liquid (water), or a gas (water vapor). Ice can change to become water or water vapor. Water can change to become ice or water vapor. Water vapor can change to become ice or water.

How do these changes happen? Adding or subtracting heat makes the cycle work. If heat is added to ice, it melts. If heat is added to water, it evaporates. Evaporation turns liquid water into a gas called water vapor.

If heat is taken away from water vapor, it condenses. Condensation turns water vapor into a liquid. If heat is taken away from liquid water, it freezes to become ice.



The water cycle is called the hydrologic cycle. In the hydrologic cycle, water from oceans, lakes, swamps, rivers, plants, and even you, can turn into water vapor. Water vapor condenses into millions of tiny droplets that form clouds. Clouds lose their water as rain or snow, which is called precipitation. Precipitation is either absorbed into the ground or runs off into rivers. Water that was absorbed into the ground is taken up by plants. Plants lose water from their surfaces as vapor back into the atmosphere. Water that runs off into rivers flows into ponds, lakes, or oceans where it evaporates back into the atmosphere.

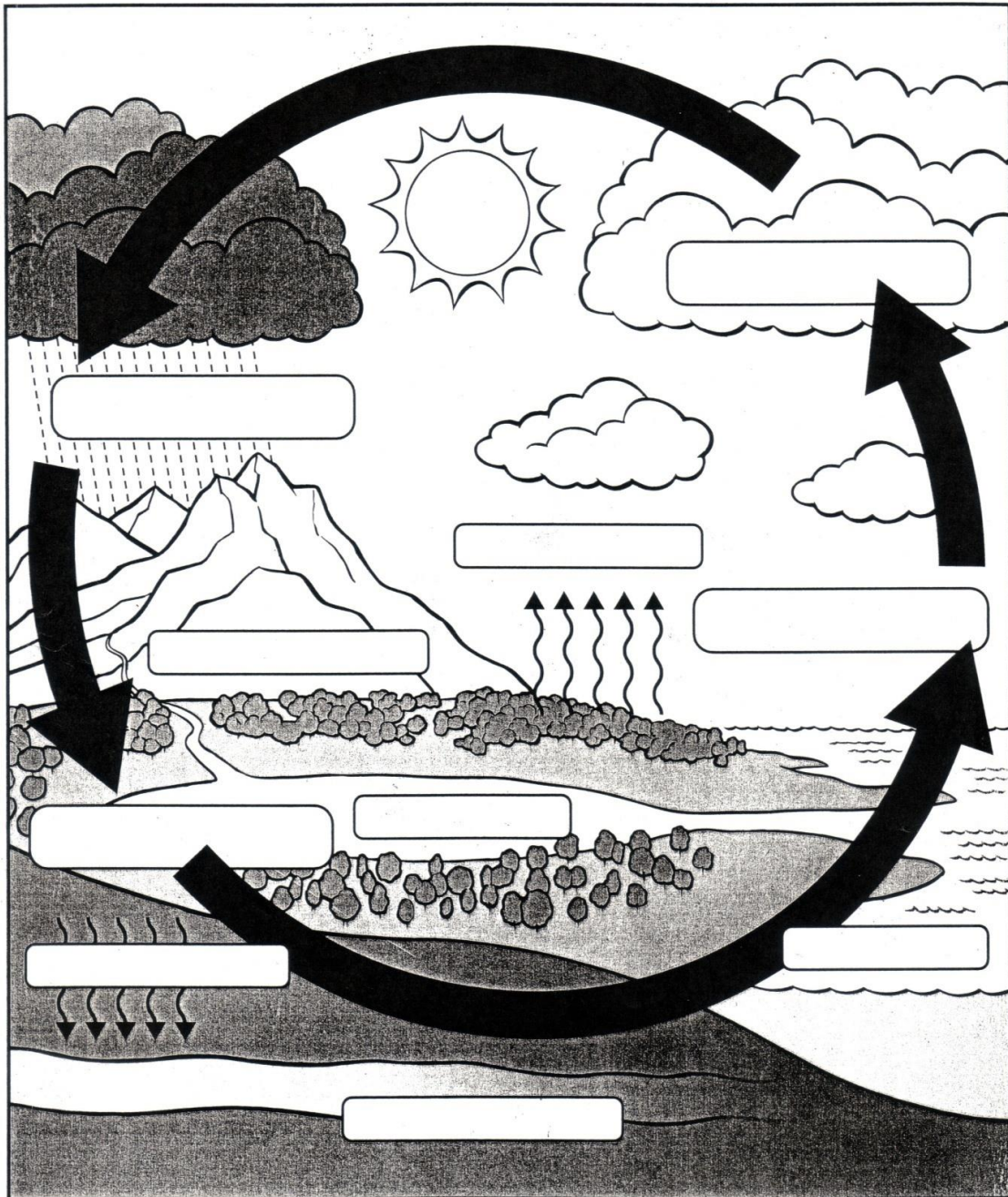
The cycle continues.

Article Questions:

- 1.) **What causes water to change from ice to liquid and then liquid to gas?**
- 2.) **Explain how evaporation and condensation are different?**
- 3.) **What is another name for the water cycle?**
- 4.) **When water vapor condenses, what does it form?**
- 5.) **What is precipitation? Give 2 examples.**

Labeling the Water Cycle

Fill in the blanks with the correct parts of the water cycle.



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1 – TRANSPIRATION, 2 – PRECIPITATION, 3 – AQUIFER, 4 – CONDENSATION 5
– PERMEABLE, 6 – SURFACE RUNOFF, 7 – SALT WATER, 8 – COLLECTION, 9
– FRESH WATER, 10 – EVAPORATION