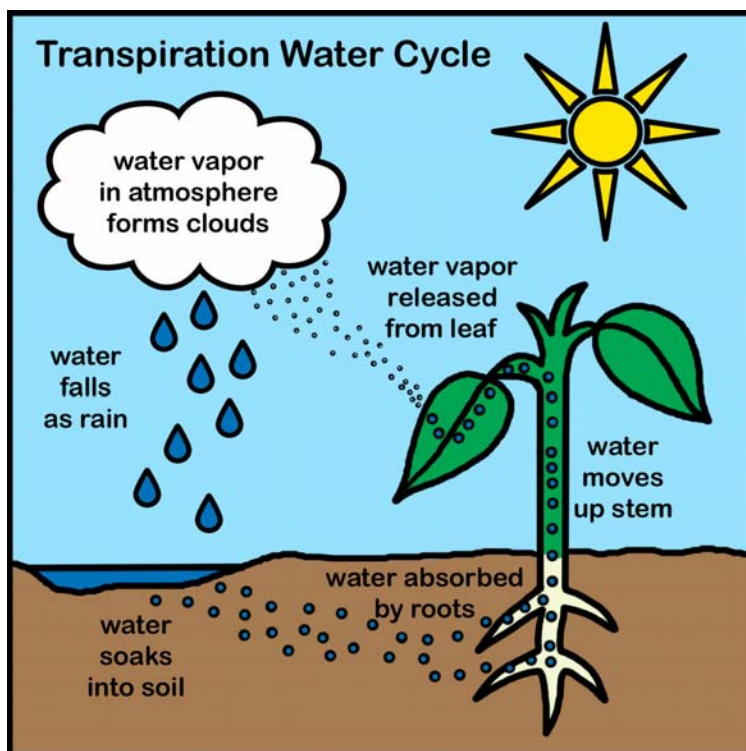


THE WATER CYCLE

Water covers most of our planet. It can be found in oceans, lakes, and ponds, and in the ground itself. The cycle of water from **liquid** to **vapor** to **solid** is called **the water cycle**. The water cycle is an exciting and continuous process, with no beginning or end. The water cycle is the movement of water in the environment by **evaporation**, **condensation**, and **precipitation**.

The warm sun causes liquid water to *evaporate* (to change from a liquid into a gas or vapor) and rise up into the sky. The water vapors that are formed cool during evaporation. These cooled water vapors form clouds in the sky. The transformation of the vapor into clouds (that is, from a gas into a liquid) is *condensation*. Clouds can be a mass of water droplets and/or ice particles. When the clouds get heavy enough, the water falls back to the ground in the form of rain, snow, or hail. This is *precipitation*.



*Plants in our environment contain water in a liquid form. They release water vapor into the atmosphere. When plants do this it is called **transpiration**. Transpiration is a kind of evaporation.*

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WATER CYCLE

1. What are the three forms of water listed in the article?
 - a. liquid, vapor, solid
 - b. frozen, vapor, solid
 - c. liquid, gas, hail
 - d. water, gas, solid

2. Which of the following is the best definition of evaporation?
 - a. It is the process of disappearing.
 - b. It is a magical process of turning into vapor.
 - c. It is the process of changing from liquid to vapor.
 - d. It is the process of moving from one place to another.

3. Which of the following is the best definition of condensation?
 - a. It is the process of moving things very close together.
 - b. It is the process of changing from vapor to liquid.
 - c. It is the process of changing from liquid to vapor.
 - d. It is the process of changing from vapor to solid.

4. Which of the following is the best example of precipitation?
 - a. rain
 - b. clouds
 - c. evaporation
 - d. ice

5. What causes evaporation?
 - a. The warm sun and photosynthesis.
 - b. Perspiration and precipitation.
 - c. Rain and snow.
 - d. The sun and transpiration.

6. What are clouds?
 - a. Masses of condensed water formed by cooled water vapors.
 - b. Masses of condensed vapors.
 - c. Masses of cotton balls.
 - d. Masses of evaporated water.

7. What causes precipitation?
 - a. Evaporation.
 - b. The weight of the clouds.
 - c. The hot sun.
 - d. Plant transpiration.

ANSWERS TO THE WATER CYCLE

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. d
6. a
7. b