

## **The water Cycle**

**Learn about evaporation, condensation, precipitation and run-off**

### **Evaporation**

When rain falls, some of the rainwater collects in puddles on the ground. The sun's energy turns the water to water vapour. This is evaporation.

Some rainwater soaks into the ground and may collect in underground rocks. This water may eventually come to the surface as a spring and flow into rivers and on to the sea where some of it evaporates.

### **Condensation**

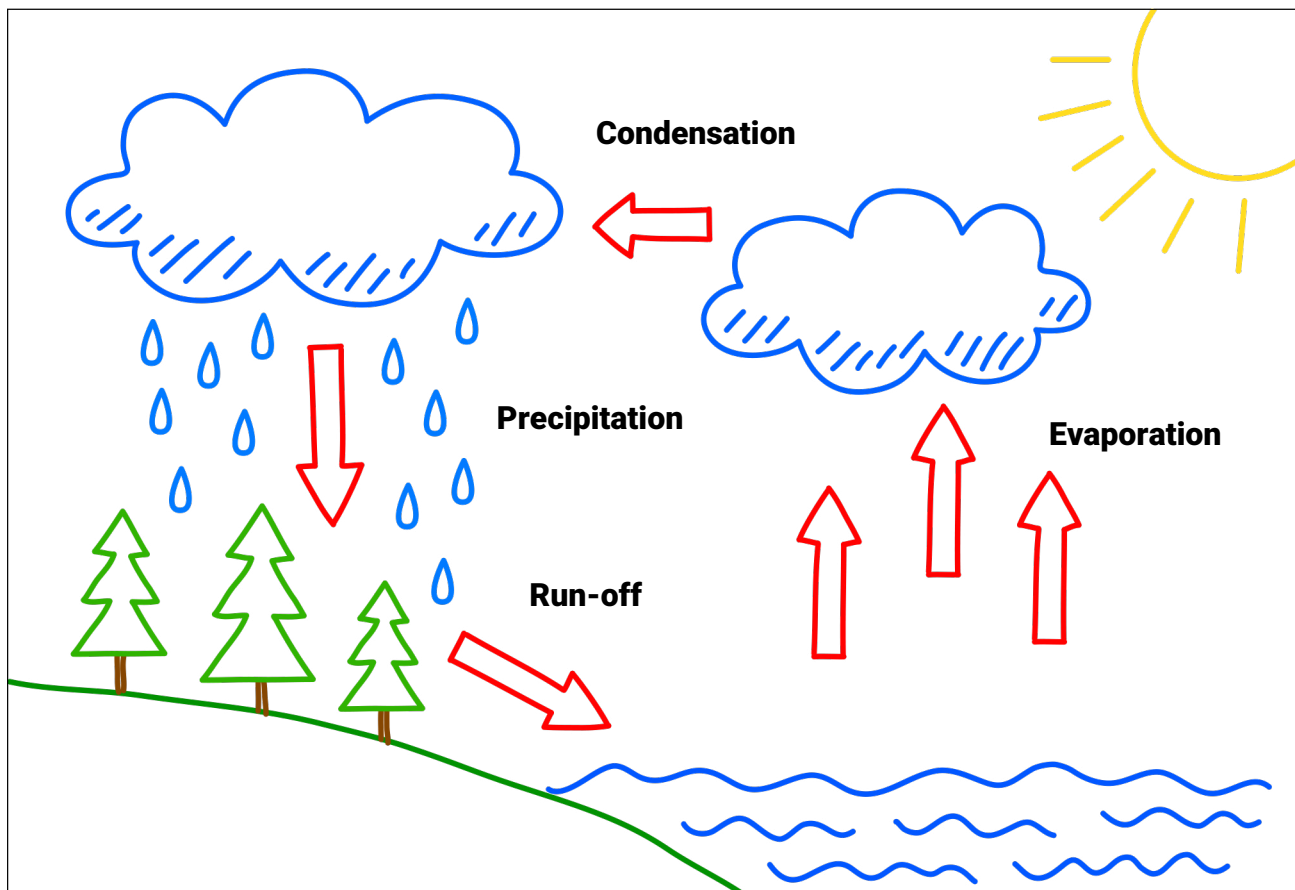
The water vapour rises and meets cooler air. As the water vapour cools, it condenses into tiny droplets of water that become clouds.

### **Precipitation**

If these droplets of water become cooler, they get larger until they are so heavy that they fall from the clouds back to earth as rain. This is called precipitation.

### **Run-off**

Much of the water that returns to Earth as precipitation runs off the surface of the land, and flows downhill into streams, rivers, ponds and lakes. This is called run-off.



## Factoid

There is the same amount of water on the earth now as when our planet was created - it just gets recycled.

So you could be drinking the same water as the dinosaurs!

When you boil a kettle of water, the water evaporates and you can see the water vapour or steam coming off.

If this water vapour hits a cold surface, such as a window, it will condense into drops of water.