

The water cycle is the constant movement of water through the Earth and its atmosphere. Water on the ground evaporates, becoming water vapor. The vapor rises, becomes clouds, and then falls back to the earth as rain, snow, sleet, or hail.



Key vocabulary

evaporation

When a liquid changes into a vapor or gas.

condensation

The process of a gas turning into a liquid.

precipitation

The falling of water from the sky in the form of rain, sleet, hail, or snow.

vapor

A gas formed from something that is usually a liquid or solid at normal temperatures. Clouds are made of condensed vapor.

transpiration

The process by which plants give off moisture into the atmosphere.

Related articles



The Carbon Cycle

Carbon is found in every living thing. Seriously! Did you ever wonder how it gets there?



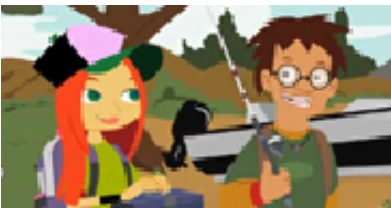
The Nitrogen Cycle

Every living thing needs nitrogen, but it is not so easy to get. Thanks to some helpful bacteria, though, plants and animals are able to get the nitrogen they need to survive.



Ecosystems

Look outside your window. Ever wonder how all those things live and grow together in one place? That is an ecosystem, and it is a pretty amazing thing.



Changes in Ecosystems

Even in ecosystems, things change. Over hundreds and thousands of years, those changes can really add up!



Clouds & Precipitation

Do the clouds in the sky mean it will snow, or is a thunderstorm coming? Find out how precipitation works, and you will know!



Lithosphere, Hydrosphere, & Atmosphere

Did you know that there is a name for all of the rock on earth? Sure is. Here are a few names that will come in handy.