

The water cycle



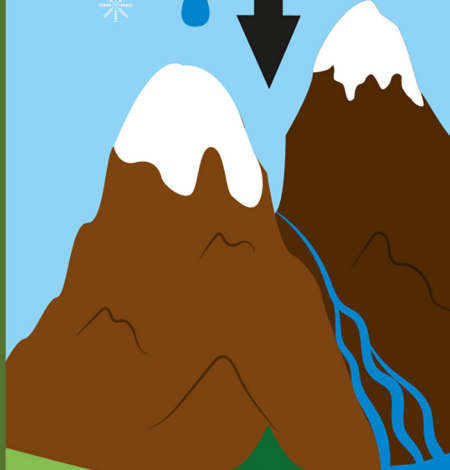
**Precipitation
(liquid or solid)**
The clouds grow bigger and become heavy. The water then falls back to Earth as precipitation. Precipitation can be rain, hail, sleet or snow.



**Condensation
(gas to liquid)**
It is very cold high up in the atmosphere. As the water vapour rises, it cools down, causing the gas to condense and turn back to a liquid. These tiny water droplets form clouds.



**Evaporation
(liquid to gas)**
The heat of the Sun warms up water collected in rivers, lakes and oceans. As the water heats up, it changes state to become water vapour (a gas) that rises into the sky.



**Collection
(liquid or solid)**
Rivers, lakes, oceans and land collect the water that has fallen. If water falls on land, it soaks into the soil and becomes 'ground water'.

