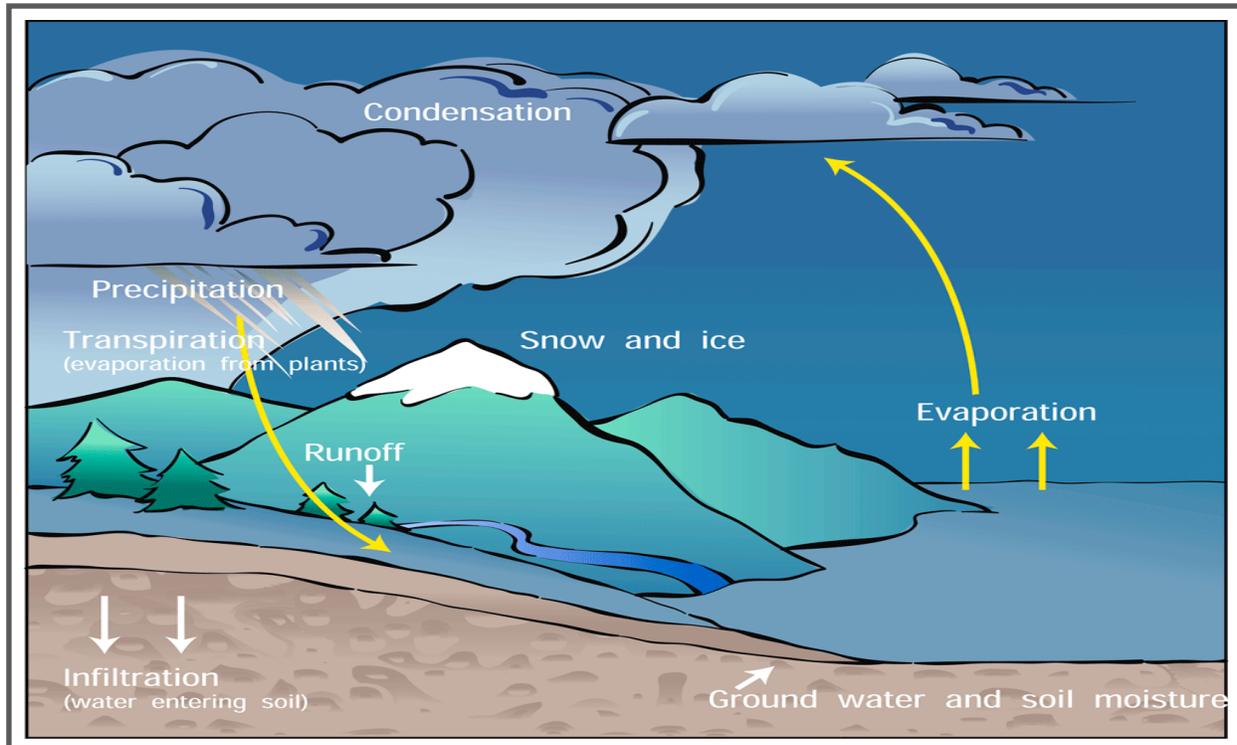


Water cycle

The amount of water present on earth circulates from one form to another. The circulation of water between ocean and land is known as the water cycle.

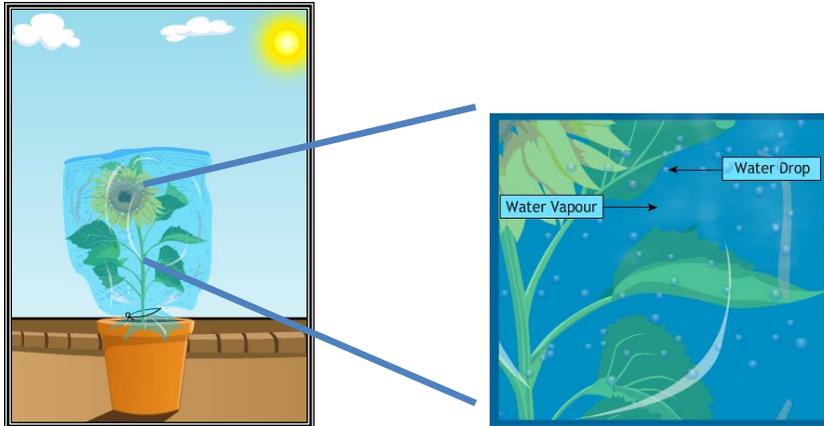


This cycle is made up of a few main parts:

- ❖ Evaporation (and Transpiration)
- ❖ Condensation
- ❖ Precipitation
- ❖ Collection

Evaporation

Evaporation is when the sun heats up water in rivers or lakes or the ocean and turns it into vapor or steam. The water vapor or steam leaves the river, lake or ocean and goes into the air. Plants also lose water in the form of water vapour from the leaves by the process of transpiration.



Condensation

Water vapour on reaching higher altitudes condenses to form water droplets which float in air. These are the clouds. This conversion of water vapour into water is called as condensation.

Precipitation

Precipitation occurs when so much water has condensed that the air cannot hold it anymore. The clouds get heavy and water falls back to the earth in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow.

Collection

When water falls back to earth as precipitation, it may fall back in the oceans, lakes or rivers or it may end up on land. When it ends up on land, it will either soak into the earth or it may run over the soil and collect in the oceans, lakes or rivers where the cycle starts again.