Water Cycle in Nature

☞ Water cycle can be defined as the process through which water gets evaporated from open surfaces like oceans and seas, gets condensed as it rises in the cool atmosphere and ultimately pours down as rain (precipitation) back into oceans, lakes, rivers and ponds.
To know how these rivers, get their water from we need to study a little about the water cycle and the processes of evaporation and condensation.

☞ **Evaporation:** The process of conversion of water into its gaseous state i.e. vapours is known as evaporation.

☞ **Condensation:** The process of conversion of vapours into water is referred to as condensation.

☞ **Transpiration:** The process of evaporation of water from the surface of the leaves into the atmosphere is defined as the process of transpiration. In this manner, plants also contribute to the water cycle.

Water Cycle in Nature

☞ The water cycle is the circulation of water through the process of evaporation or condensation as rain or snowfall.

- The water cycle is like a ring.
- In nature, the water cycle takes place from sea to land and back to sea again.
- It is through the process of water cycle that we are Able to make use of the ocean water.
- Ocean water is saline in nature and hence cannot b used directly.
- When it gets evaporated, it leaves behind the salts and forms clouds.
- As the warm air from these surfaces rises into the cold air of the atmosphere, saturation and condensation occur to form tiny droplets of water which result in cloud formation.

☞ These clouds then lead to rainfall and snow which deposit in lakes, wells and ponds is then used by us to satisfy our needs. Apart of this rainwater gets absorbed by the soil, some of it gets evaporated while the rest seeps in the ground and becomes another source of water for us in the form of groundwater.

Handpumps, wells and even lakes draw water from groundwater. The water cycle is a continuous process.

The water on the earth changes into three different states of matter:
Solid
Liquid
Gas