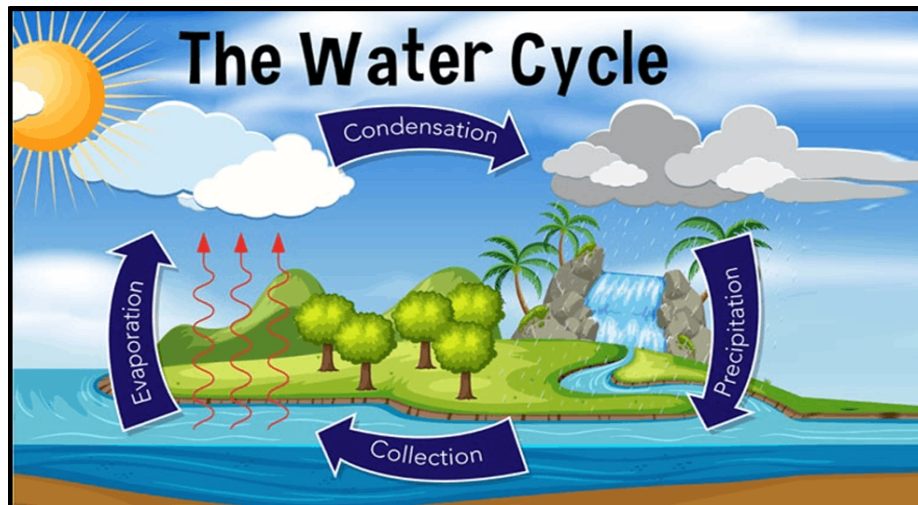


Water Cycle



The water cycle is a natural process that continuously happens on earth. The water cycle maintains the amount of water on the earth. It can be divided into four phases:



Evaporation: It is a process when the water from the earth's surface gets converted into water vapour due to the heat of the sun. The water vapour then gets into the air.

Condensation: The water vapour rises up in the atmosphere and get accumulated above, condenses and form water droplets. These droplets collect together and form clouds.

Precipitation: When the volume of droplets increases in the atmosphere, it falls on the earth as rainfall also called as **Precipitation**. Sometimes it also occurs as snowfall in some areas.

Collection of Water: As the water falls back on the earth, it travels along the surface and gets accumulated at different places like lakes, rivers, sea, oceans and under the ground. That's how the amount of water is regulated on the earth.

Water Cycle



Importance of Water Cycle in Nature

Water cycle is important because of the following reasons:

Water cycle makes fresh water available in the form of rain: The sea-water is highly salty which is not fit for drinking by animals or for the growth of plants. But the rain water is pure water. It can be utilised by animals as well as plants.

Water cycle keeps the amount of water on the earth's surface constant: This is because the water removed from the earth during evaporation and transpiration is put back to the earth during rain and snowfall.