

Name:  Grade:  Date:

### The Water Cycle

We get fresh water through the water **cycle**. Over and over again, water moves from the oceans and rivers to the clouds. Then it falls on the land as rain or snow, and moves back into the oceans and rivers. Then the cycle begins again.



water vapor

The water cycle has four parts. The first part is **evaporation**. When water is hot, it evaporates. This means it changes from a liquid into a gas called **water vapor** and moves into the air.

The next part of the water cycle is **condensation**. When water vapor gets cold, it turns into small drops of water. These become clouds. When the clouds become very heavy, they cause the next part of the water cycle, **precipitation**. Rain and snow are two kinds of precipitation.



precipitation

The final part of the cycle is **collection**. Water from precipitation goes into the earth and into rivers, lakes, and oceans. People use this water for drinking, too.



collection



solid



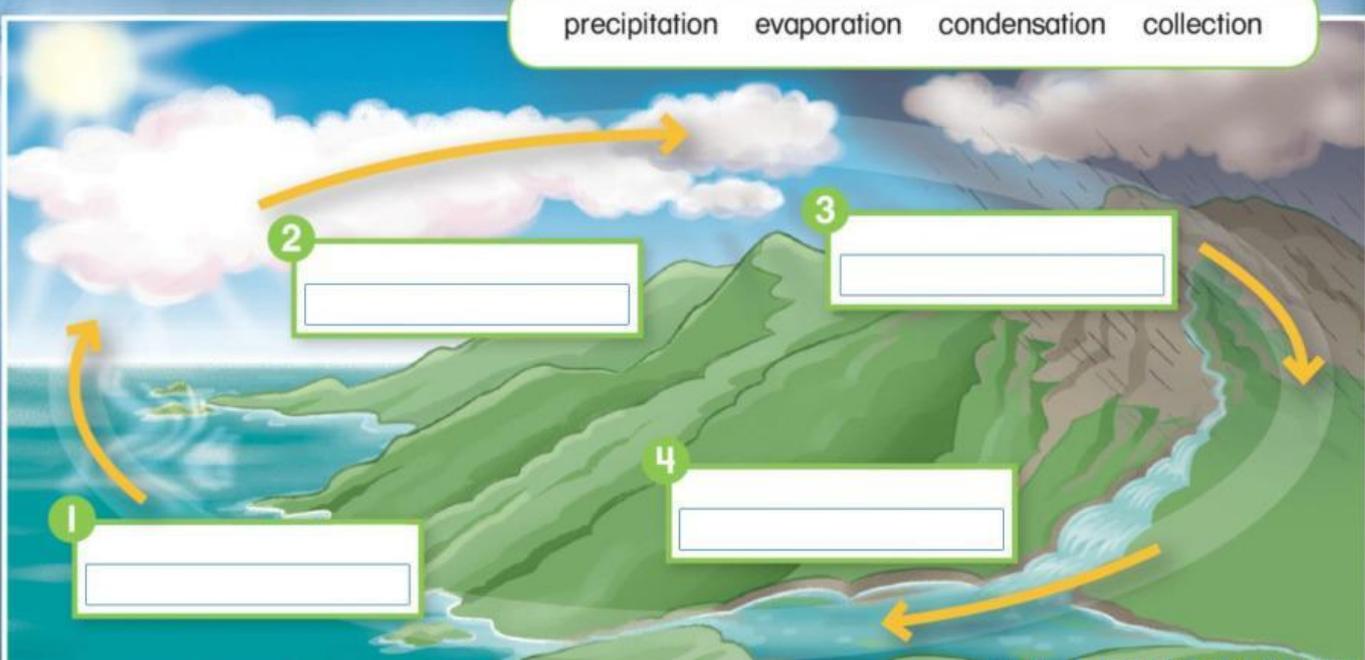
liquid



gas

**E Fill in the diagram.**

precipitation    evaporation    condensation    collection



**LIVEWORKSHEETS**

**A Write.**  evaporation water vapor precipitation cycle condensation collection

1. The water \_\_\_\_\_ has four parts.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ happens when the clouds get very heavy.
3. When people use the water for drinking, it's the \_\_\_\_\_ step of the water cycle.
4. When hot water goes into the air as water vapor, it's called \_\_\_\_\_.
5. When water vapor gets cold and becomes clouds, it's called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is a gas, rain is a liquid, and snow is a solid.

**B Read and write.** 

**Skills Tip**

Diagrams help explain specific words and actions.

### Kinds of Precipitation

Precipitation is the step of the water cycle when water returns to the earth. However, it doesn't always return as rain. There are other kinds of precipitation. What are they?

Snow is also a kind of precipitation. Snow is made in the air when water vapor turns into

#### How snow is made



#### How ice is made



ice. The ice turns into snowflakes and falls to the earth as snow. If you ski or snowboard, snow might be your favorite kind of precipitation!

Another kind of precipitation happens when water vapor turns into rain and the rain turns into ice. This ice can be very small, or it can be as big as a golf ball. Then it becomes very dangerous and can hurt plants and other living things.

1. When snow is made, does water vapor turn into rain or ice?

2. When snow is made, does ice turn into rain or snow?

3. When ice is made, does rain turn into ice or snow?