

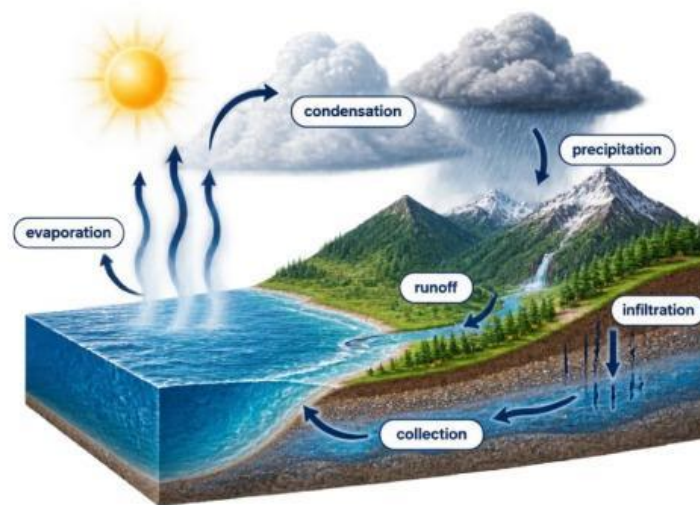
The Water Cycle

PART A · READING

TASK 1 Read the text

Read the text about the journey of a water drop. You will need it for Tasks 2–4.

The Journey of a Water Drop



1 Imagine a single drop of water in the Pacific Ocean. It may look ordinary, but it has travelled around our planet many times. Scientists say that the water we have today is the same water that existed millions of years ago, because the total amount of water on Earth stays almost constant. Water simply moves from one place to another and changes its state in a never-ending process called the water cycle, or the hydrologic cycle.

2 On a warm morning, the sun heats the surface of the ocean. Our drop gains energy, turns from a liquid into an invisible gas and rises into the air as water vapour. This process is called evaporation. Water also enters the atmosphere from plants: they take water from the soil through their roots and release it through tiny holes in their leaves. Scientists call this transpiration.

3 High above the ground, the air is much colder. The water vapour loses heat and changes back into tiny droplets of liquid water. This is condensation. Billions of these droplets gather around small particles of dust and form a cloud. Winds can carry the cloud hundreds of kilometres away from the ocean.

4 Inside the cloud, the droplets collide and join together. When they become too heavy for the air to hold, they fall to the ground as precipitation. If the air is warm, they fall as rain; if it is cold, they may fall as snow, sleet or hail.

5 Our drop lands on a mountain slope. Some rainwater flows over the surface into streams and rivers; this is called runoff. Some of it soaks into the soil. This process, called infiltration, slowly turns rainwater into groundwater, which can stay underground for hundreds or even thousands of years. Sooner or later, rivers and groundwater carry the water back to lakes, seas and oceans, where it is collected and the cycle begins again.

6 The speed of the cycle depends on the place. In a tropical rain forest near the equator, a drop may evaporate, form a cloud and fall again in a single day. In a hot desert, where it hardly ever rains, the same journey can take years. But whether it is fast or slow, the water cycle never stops.

TASK 2 True, False or Not Given?

Click **T** if the statement agrees with the text, **F** if it contradicts the text, or **NG** if there is no information about it in the text.

Statement	Your answer		
1. The amount of water on Earth is slowly decreasing.	T	F	NG
2. Plants release water into the air through their leaves.	T	F	NG
3. We can see water vapour in the air.	T	F	NG
4. Most clouds form above the oceans.	T	F	NG
5. Wind can move clouds far from the place where the water evaporated.	T	F	NG
6. Snow and hail are forms of precipitation.	T	F	NG
7. Groundwater always returns to the ocean within a few days.	T	F	NG
8. Hail causes more damage to crops than rain.	T	F	NG
9. Water vapour changes into liquid droplets when it cools.	T	F	NG
10. The water cycle is faster in deserts than in tropical rain forests.	T	F	NG

TASK 3 Find the words

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. Look in the paragraph given in brackets. Write **ONE word** in items 1–6 and **TWO words** in item 7, exactly as they are in the text.

- staying the same; not changing (paragraph 1, **ONE word**) → _____
- the process in which plants release water through their leaves (paragraph 2, **ONE word**) → _____
- very small drops of liquid (paragraph 3, **ONE word**) → _____

4. hit each other while moving (paragraph 4, **ONE word**) → _____
5. goes slowly into something, as water goes into a sponge (paragraph 5, **ONE word**) → _____
6. water that is stored under the ground (paragraph 5, **ONE word**) → _____
7. almost never (paragraph 6, **TWO words**) → _____

TASK 4 Complete the summary

Choose the correct option to complete the summary of the text.

The water cycle is powered by energy from **(1) the Earth's interior / the Sun**. When water **(2) evaporates / condenses**, it changes from a liquid into a gas. In the cold upper atmosphere, water vapour **(3) warms / cools** and forms clouds. When the droplets in a cloud become too **(4) heavy / light**, they fall as precipitation. Water that flows over the ground is called **(5) runoff / infiltration**, while water that soaks into the soil becomes **(6) vapour / groundwater**. The cycle is **(7) slowest / fastest** in tropical rain forests, and the total amount of water on Earth **(8) stays the same / increases** every year.

TASK 5 Name the process

Read about these everyday situations. Which part of the water cycle does each one show? Write a word from the box. Use each word once.

<i>infiltration</i>	<i>precipitation</i>	<i>transpiration</i>	<i>condensation</i>
	<i>evaporation</i>	<i>collection</i>	<i>runoff</i>

1. On a sunny afternoon, the puddles on the road disappear. → _____
2. Small drops of water appear on a cold glass of lemonade on a hot day. → _____
3. On a summer day, a large oak tree gives off water into the air. → _____
4. Small balls of ice fall from the sky during a storm. → _____
5. After a storm, muddy water flows down a hillside into a stream. → _____
6. Rainwater goes down through a field and reaches a layer of rock deep underground. → _____
7. Several rivers carry water into a large lake, where it is stored. → _____