



Name _____

Date _____

WATER CYCLE

What is the water cycle? How does it affect us? The water cycle is very important to our existence. A *cycle* is another word for circle. The water cycle is like one continuous circle. Water can be found in the form of liquid (drinking water), gas (vapor or steam), or a solid (ice or snow) at any given part of the water cycle. There are three phases that make up the water cycle. These phases are condensation, precipitation, and evaporation.

Condensation is when water vapor in the air turns to liquid. Temperature and air pressure have a lot to do with condensation. Warm air can hold more water than cool air, and therefore the water vapor condenses into small droplets as the temperature falls.

Precipitation is what happens when the water vapor condenses into large droplets. Gravity pulls on the liquid droplets and causes them to fall to the ground. Precipitation can be in the form of snow, sleet, rain, or hail. Air temperature and wind patterns determine the type of precipitation.

Evaporation is when liquid water changes to a gas. This happens with an increase in temperature or a dry wind blowing across the water. Gas rises into the air and forms clouds. Sometimes it even forms fog.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. After reading the passage, which statement is not accurate?
 - a. Air temperature and wind patterns determine the type of precipitation.
 - b. Precipitation is what happens when the water vapor evaporates.
 - c. A *cycle* is another word for circle. The water cycle is like one continuous circle.
 - d. Gas rises into the air and forms clouds.
2. The main idea of this passage is . . .
 - a. to inform the reader about what happens when it rains.
 - b. to inform the reader about the connection between the Earth's orbiting the sun and the water cycle.
 - c. to inform the reader about how important condensation is to the Earth.
 - d. to share general information about the water cycle and its role.
3. Where can you find information about how water changes to a gas?

a. second paragraph	c. fourth paragraph
b. not in the passage	d. third paragraph



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LIFE CYCLE OF A FROG

Have you ever wondered how a frog is formed? It is an interesting process. In early spring, adult frogs make their way to the breeding pools. Once they arrive, the male frogs croak very loudly. They are trying to attract the females so they can breed. The female releases her eggs into the water so the male can fertilize them. Once fertilized, these groups of eggs are called frogspawn. It is a jelly-like substance that absorbs water. It floats up to the surface of the pond so that the sun can warm it. One clump of frogspawn can hold thousands of eggs inside.

After 10 days, tadpoles will wiggle free from the eggs and begin swimming around. A tadpole is more like a fish than a frog at this point. It uses its tail and gills to breathe and swim. It takes five weeks for the tadpole to develop lungs and breathe air. Once the lungs are developed, the tadpole needs to go to the surface of the water for air. By seven weeks, miniature teeth are formed so that the tadpole can eat other insects and sometimes other tadpoles.

By eight weeks, the tadpole begins to grow back legs. It takes 10 or more weeks for the front legs to grow. At around 14 weeks, the tadpole begins to lose its tail and look like a real frog. In three years, the frog will have reached maturity and the whole cycle begins again.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is frogspawn?
 - a. the frog's habitat
 - b. food for the frog to eat
 - c. a jelly-like substance
 - d. the frog's territory
2. Which of the following statements can you infer after reading the passage?
 - a. Frogs go through many changes before they are mature.
 - b. Frogspawn is very dangerous when humans touch it.
 - c. Scientists still do not know a lot about how the frog develops.
 - d. Only some tadpoles turn into frogs.
3. The purpose of the third paragraph is to . . .
 - a. inform the reader about frogspawn.
 - b. inform the reader about how the female frog fertilizes the eggs.
 - c. inform the reader about how the lungs of the frog develop.
 - d. none of the above



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CELLS

The cell is the smallest unit of living matter. Many living things are made up of millions and millions of cells. Cells come in all different sizes, shapes, and forms. They each have different jobs to perform as well. There are three main parts to a cell. Each cell has a cell membrane, a nucleus, and cytoplasm.

The cell membrane is found along the outer edge of the cell. It works like a filter or a sieve. It lets the good things like nutrients in, and it gets rid of all the bad stuff. It serves as a protection to the cell.

The nucleus of a cell is like the brain of the cell. It is dark and is usually located in the center of the cell. It controls all the actions of the cell. The nucleus also contains the DNA. The DNA is like a blueprint or a plan that the cell will use to reproduce.

The cytoplasm is located inside the cell membrane and around the nucleus. It is a jelly-like substance. This is where all the action takes place. The cytoplasm responds to the nucleus. This is where the cell uses the nutrients. It is made of water and other chemicals. Cells can live for different amounts of time. Cells are constantly reproducing.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are the three parts of a cell?

a. cell membrane, shell, cytoplasm	c. cell membrane, nutrients, cytoplasm
b. cell membrane, brain, cytoplasm	d. cell membrane, nucleus, cytoplasm
2. What does the word *sieve* mean as used in the passage?

a. strainer	c. instruction
b. proof	d. plan
3. What role does DNA play in the cell?
 - a. It depends on the amount of cytoplasm in the cell.
 - b. It carries the information to the brain.
 - c. It carries the overall plan or blueprint of the cell's reproduction.
 - d. It depends on how many years it has been a cell.
4. Which paragraph helps answer the previous question?

a. first paragraph	c. third paragraph
b. fifth paragraph	d. fourth paragraph