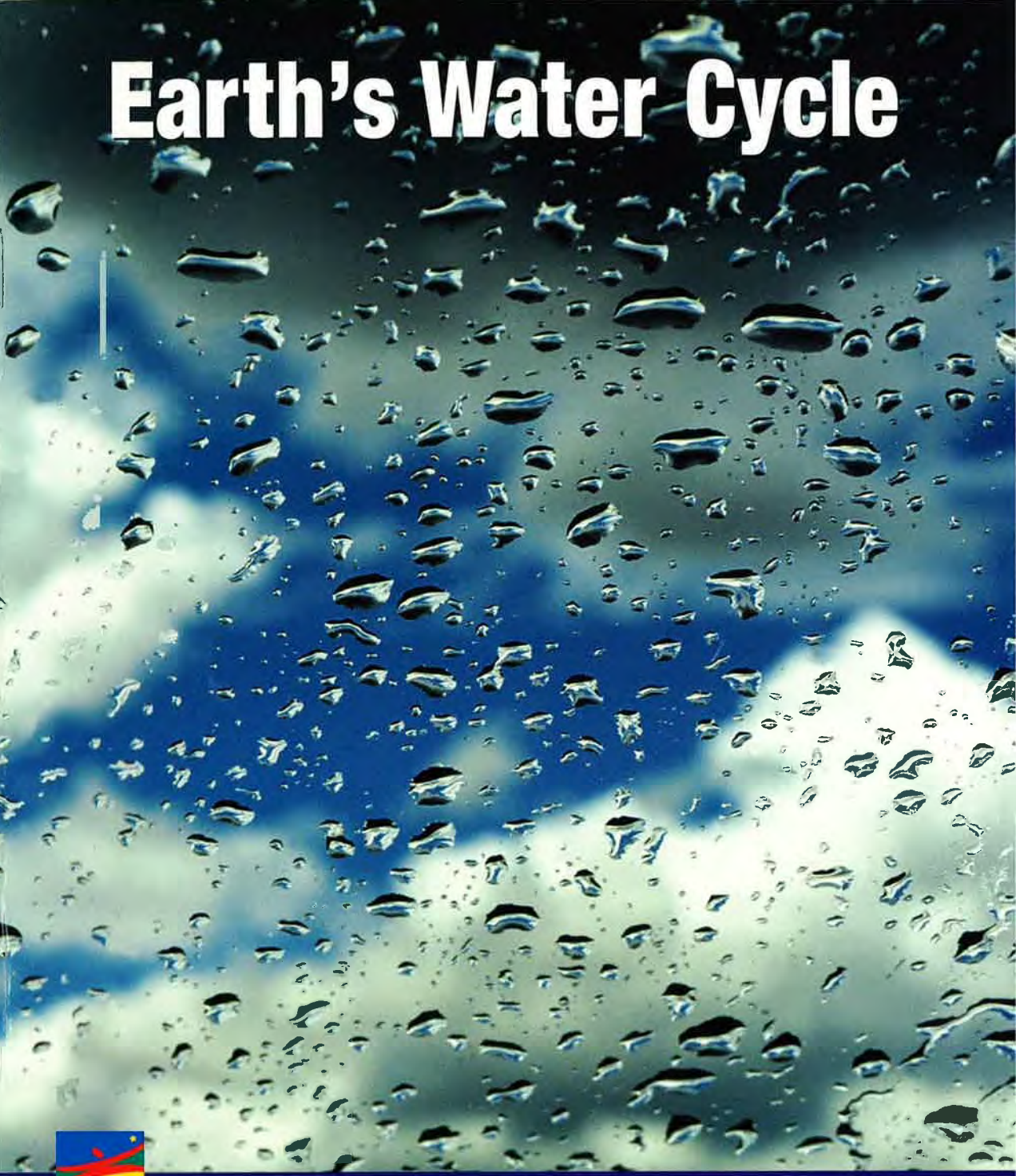
Earth's Water Cycle



by Kira Freed

Benchmark EDUCATION

Level 24 L Word Count: 757*

The Big Idea

This book focuses on the changes that are part of the water cycle, the location of Earth's water, and the ways in which the water cycle creates weather.

Skills at a Glance

Monitor-Reading:
- Visualize

Comprehension:
- Identify sequence of events

Phonics:
- r-controlled e and u (different, nature, pattern, surface, temperatures)

Fluency:
- Read with phrases

Tier Two Vocabulary:
- cause, collects, produce, traveling

Tier Three Vocabulary:
- condensation, evaporation, gas, groundwater, liquid, precipitation, solid, water cycle, water vapor

Grammar, Word Study, and Language Development:
- Use possessives (Earth's)
- Use prepositions (around, through)

Sentence Patterns:
- _____ water is _____.
- Earth has _____.

* Numerals, vocabulary words on pages 2 and 3, and words in photo captions, labels, diagrams, and charts are not included in the word count of this book.

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Think about how Earth's water moves and changes form.



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I need to know these words.

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condensation



precipitation



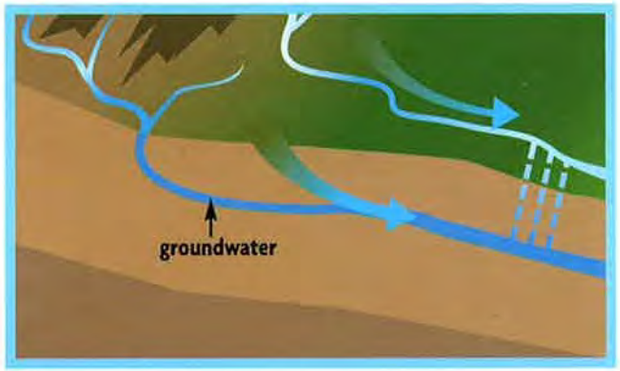
evaporation



water cycle



groundwater



water vapor



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What Is the Water Cycle?

The **water cycle** is a pattern in nature. The water cycle is happening all the time. Earth has huge amounts of water. This water is always moving.

The water cycle moves Earth's water to different places. Water changes form as it moves.

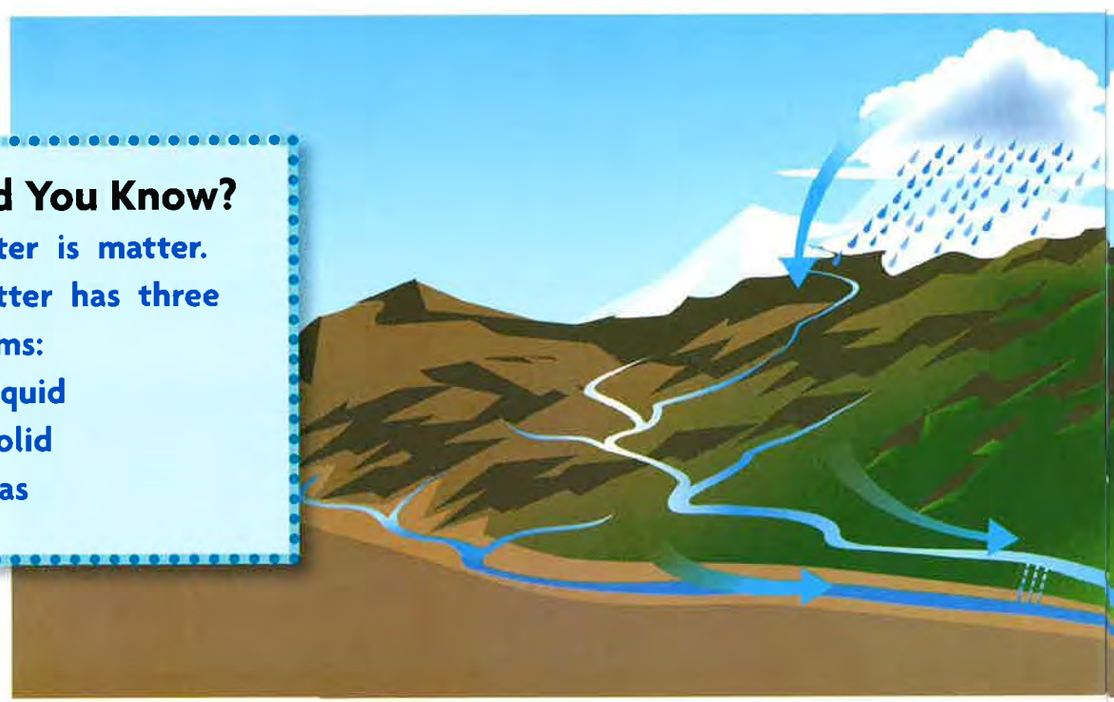
One part of the water cycle is **evaporation**. Evaporation happens when the sun warms liquid water. Then the water changes form. The liquid water becomes gas. This gas is **water vapor**.

We cannot see water vapor. We can feel water vapor on some hot days. Air feels damp because it holds large amounts of water vapor.

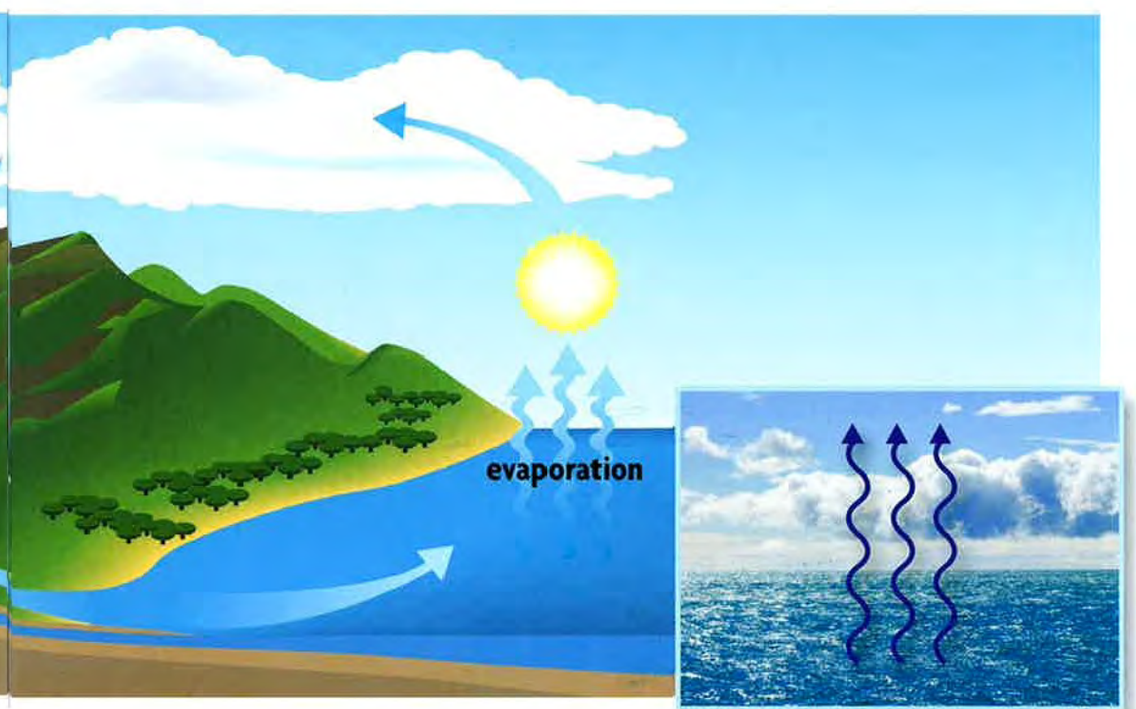
Did You Know?

Water is matter. Matter has three forms:

- **liquid**
- **solid**
- **gas**



▲ the water cycle



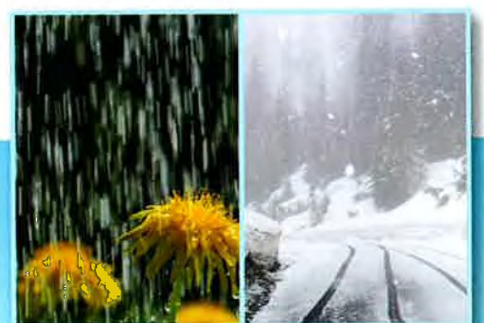
▲ evaporation

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The next part of the water cycle is **condensation**. The water vapor rises into higher, cooler air. The cooler air cannot hold large amounts of water vapor. Some of the water vapor becomes liquid again. Then clouds form.

The clouds become heavy with water. Clouds cannot hold all the water. The water becomes **precipitation**. Precipitation is the next part of the water cycle.

Precipitation is water that falls from clouds. The water falls to the ground. The water can fall in different forms.



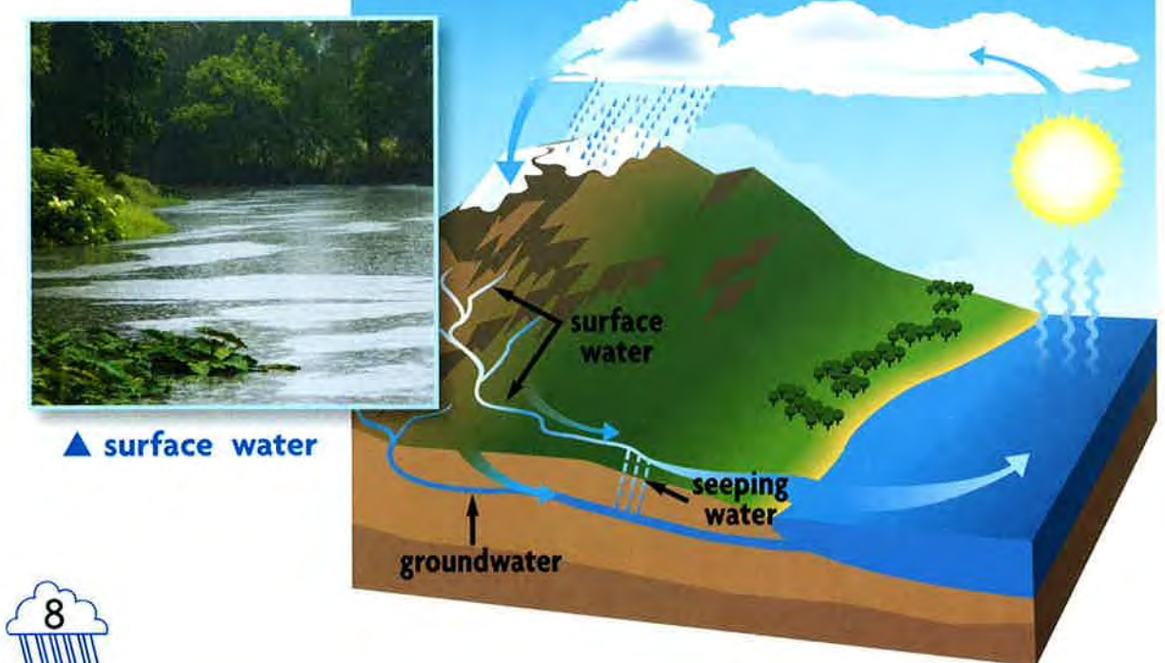
▲ precipitation



▲ condensation

Then some precipitation seeps, or goes slowly, into the ground. This water becomes **groundwater**. The groundwater flows between soil and rocks. Some groundwater collects deep under the ground.

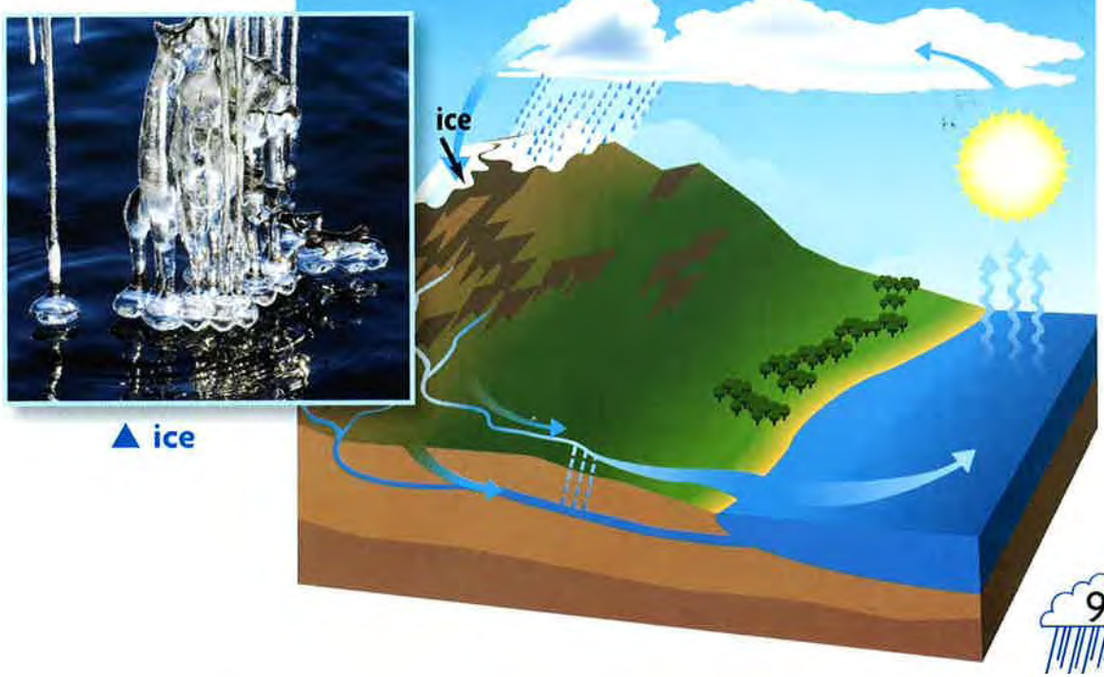
Some precipitation stays on the ground. This water is surface water. Surface water flows into streams and rivers. Next, streams and rivers flow into lakes and oceans. Then evaporation happens to this water again.



▲ surface water

Frozen precipitation is ice. Ice is another form of water. Ice is a solid.

Earth has ice in cold places. The sun warms some of the ice. The heat from the sun causes this ice to melt. The ice becomes liquid water. Some water seeps into the ground and becomes groundwater. Some water flows into rivers, lakes, and oceans.



▲ ice

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