



The Water Cycle



Fill in the blanks below with words from this box:

evaporation	sunny	precipitate	condenses
evaporates	clouds	vapor	atmosphere
heating	heavy	oceans	lakes
droplets	plants	hail	glaciers
runoff	snow	cycle	crystals
rain	rivers	streams	

Evaporation

On a warm, _____ day, water in a glass of water seems to slowly disappear. This is because the energy from the sun is _____ the water up and turning the liquid water into water _____. This process is called _____. When the water _____, it becomes an invisible gas in the _____. Evaporation takes place all over the earth, but especially in the _____ and _____ where there is lots of water.

Condensation

As the water vapor rises, it cools off and _____ into water _____. If the water vapor becomes extremely cold, it will form ice _____ instead of water droplets. As the water droplets or ice crystals grow bigger and more numerous, they form _____.

Precipitation

If water droplets or ice crystals become too _____, they can't stay in the air. They _____. Water droplets precipitate as _____ and ice crystals precipitate as _____. Sometimes, the rain freezes before it hits the earth and precipitates as _____.



Runoff

This precipitation gathers into _____ and _____ that flow down to the lakes and oceans. This is called _____. Not all of the water makes it back to the oceans and lakes right away. Some of it is used by animals and _____. Some is frozen into _____. Eventually, the animals and plants breathe the water out and the glaciers melt, releasing the water back into the water _____.