

The Water Cycle

Step 1: Evaporation

Evaporation is when water changes from a liquid to a gas or vapor. Evaporation happens everywhere but in great amounts in the oceans and from vegetation, replenishing air humidity and impacting the Earth's weather and climate.

Step 2: Condensation

Condensation is when water vapor in the air is changed into liquid water. Condensation is crucial to the water cycle because it is responsible for the formation of clouds.

Step 3: Precipitation

Precipitation is liquid in the atmosphere that falls back to Earth in the form of rain, freezing rain, sleet, snow or hail. Precipitation is a vital part of the water cycle that helps plants, animals and humans survive and thrive.

Step 4: Collection

Collection is when water that falls from the clouds as rain, snow, hail or sleet collects in the oceans, rivers, lakes, and streams. Most will infiltrate (soak into) the ground and will collect as underground water.

