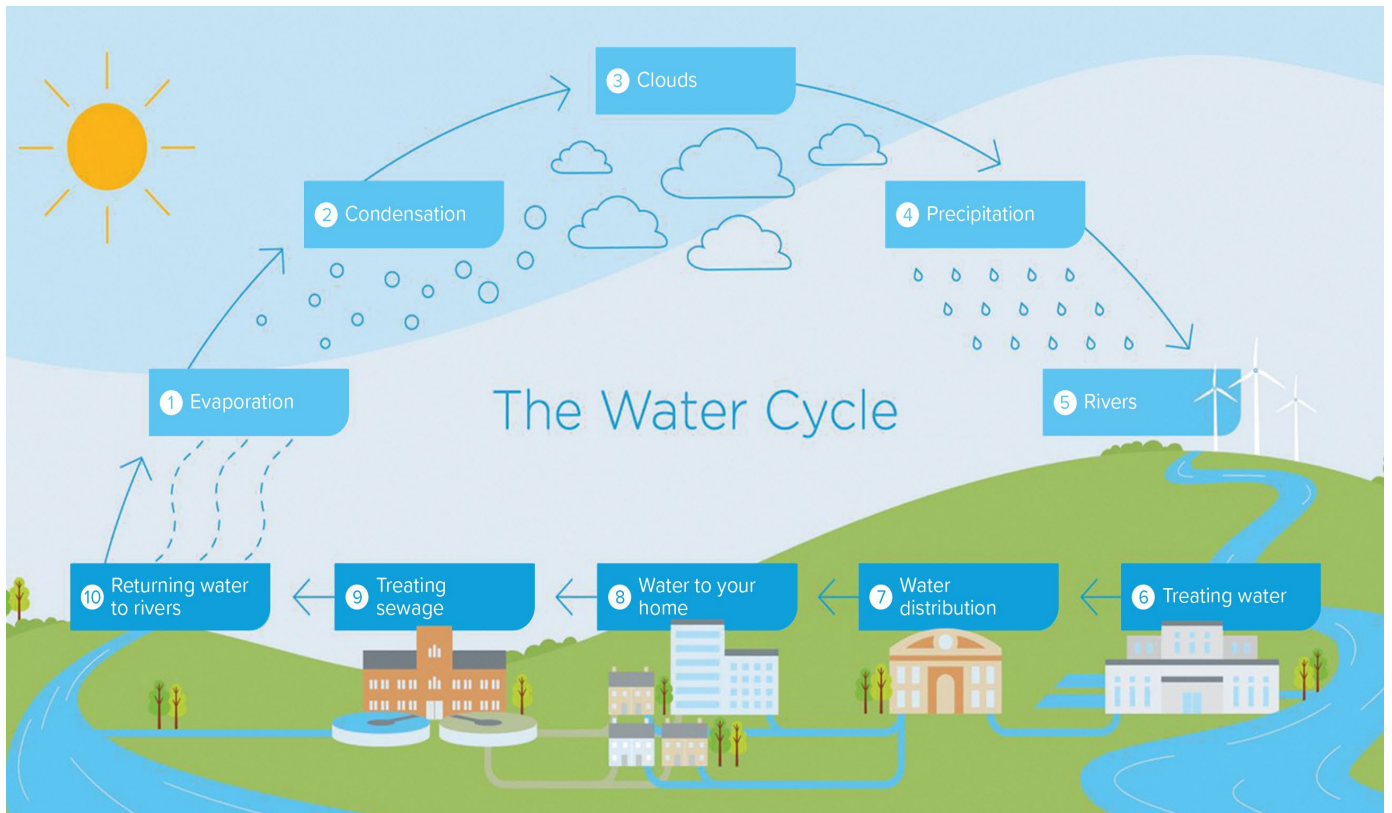


Water Cycle Activity

Water is constantly moving through the water cycle.



1 Evaporation

Water on land and in rivers, lakes and oceans is heated by the sun and evaporates to become water vapour. As it's lighter than the surrounding air, it floats upwards into the sky – just like steam rising from a kettle.

2 Condensation

As the water vapour rises into the air, it gradually cools and changes back into tiny droplets of water. This process is called condensation, and it's what causes your bathroom mirror to steam up when you have a bath or hop in the shower.

3 Clouds

When billions of these tiny water droplets come together, clouds are formed.

4 Precipitation

As the droplets in the cloud group together, they become bigger and heavier than the surrounding air. The billions of tiny water droplets then fall to the ground as rain, snow, sleet or hail, depending on the air temperature.

5 Rivers

Rainwater flows over the land into lakes, rivers and streams, which take it back to the oceans. It also infiltrates into the ground, filling natural underground water stores known as aquifers. River water is clean enough to support a variety of wildlife, but it isn't safe for us to drink until it has been treated. 80% of the water we use comes from rivers and lakes, while 20% is from our aquifers.

6 Treating water

Water is piped from rivers and aquifers, and treated in a multi-step treatment process to turn it into top-quality drinking water.

7 Water distribution

Clean water is pumped to industries, businesses and your taps via a network of water pipes.

8 Water to your home

Baths, showers, washing up, cleaning clothes and flushing the toilet all use large amounts of water. Once water's been used, it becomes wastewater. It is collected, transported, treated and safely returned to the river downstream.

9 Treating sewage

Wastewater goes down your drain or plughole into a network of sewer pipes. These lead to sewage treatment works, where the water is treated until it is clean enough to go back into rivers.

10 Returning water to rivers

Once water is back in the river, the cycle continues its journey again, moving to the sea again to begin the cycle of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection.

CLOZE activity

E _____

is the process where the sun warms the water enough to form water vapour.

C _____

is the process whereby water vapour cools to form water droplets.

C _____

are formed from millions of water droplets.

P _____

happens when water droplets join together to be heavy enough to fall from the sky.

Rainwater i _____

into the ground and returns to rivers and lakes before flowing back to the sea.

Water can be stored underground in an

a _____