

Nova's Amazing Water Cycle Adventure

Learning objective: To describe and understand the processes of the water cycle, including evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

Read the story below carefully, then answer the questions that follow. Use your scientific knowledge to explain how water moves around our planet.

Nova the owl sat high in her oak tree, looking down at the sparkling pond. She watched as the morning sun warmed the water. 'Look at that,' Nova hooted to her forest friends. 'The water is turning into invisible gas!' This is called evaporation. As the water vapour rose high into the cooler air, it began to bunch together to form fluffy white clouds. Nova knew this was condensation. 'It's like magic,' she thought. Soon, the clouds became heavy and dark. The water droplets joined together and fell back down to the earth as rain, snow, or hail—a process known as precipitation. The rain flowed into streams and back into the pond, waiting to start the journey all over again. Nova blinked her large eyes; the water was constantly travelling in a never-ending cycle.

Word bank: evaporation · condensation · precipitation · collection · vapour · temperature

1. Identify the three main stages of the water cycle mentioned in the text. (3 marks)

2. What happens to water when it is warmed by the sun, and what is this process called? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the water vapour turns into clouds when it reaches the higher, cooler air? (2 marks)

4. List two different forms of precipitation that Nova might see falling from the sky. (2 marks)

5. Explain why the water cycle is described as a 'cycle' rather than a straight line. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the water cycle. Include the sun, a pond, a cloud, and arrows to show the direction the water travels. Label your diagram with the words: Evaporation, Condensation, and Precipitation.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a single drop of water. Write a short diary entry (3-4 sentences) describing your journey from the pond, up into the clouds, and back down to the ground again.