

Nova's Water Cycle Adventure

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

Read the passage below about the water cycle and use it to answer the questions. You can use the word bank to help you spell the key scientific terms correctly.

Nova the barn owl loves to watch the rain from her tree. She knows that water is always moving in a cycle. It starts when the sun heats up the water in oceans and rivers, turning it into invisible water vapour. This is called evaporation. As the water vapour rises high into the cool sky, it turns back into tiny water droplets, forming clouds. This step is called condensation. When the clouds get too heavy with droplets, the water falls back to the ground as rain, snow, or hail. This is called precipitation. Finally, the water gathers in puddles, lakes, and oceans, ready to start the journey all over again.

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

1. What causes water in the ocean to turn into water vapour? (2 marks)

2. Explain what happens during the stage known as condensation. (2 marks)

3. List two different types of precipitation that might fall from the sky. (2 marks)

4. Why is the water cycle called a 'cycle'? (2 marks)

5. If the sun did not shine for a very long time, what would happen to the process of evaporation? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of the water cycle showing the sun, a cloud, the sea, and arrows to show the direction the water is moving.



Extension challenge: Nova wants to know what would happen if the temperature on Earth became much hotter. Write a short paragraph explaining how this might change the speed of the water cycle.