

Nova's Journey Through the Water Cycle

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

Read the passage below carefully. Use the information to answer the questions about how water moves around our planet. Remember to look for the scientific terms in the word bank.

Nova the barn owl loves to watch the world from her favourite branch. One sunny morning, she noticed the dew on the grass slowly disappearing. 'That is evaporation,' Nova hooted. The sun warms the water in ponds and puddles, turning it into an invisible gas called water vapour. As this vapour rises high into the sky, it meets cooler air. It cools down and turns back into tiny liquid water droplets, forming clouds. This is called condensation. When those clouds become too heavy, the water falls back to the ground as rain, snow, or hail, which we call precipitation. Finally, the water gathers in rivers, lakes, and oceans, ready to start its journey all over again.

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

1. Explain what happens to water when it is heated by the sun. Use the term 'evaporation' in your answer. (2 marks)

2. Why do clouds form high up in the sky? Refer to the change in temperature in your answer. (2 marks)

3. List the three main forms that precipitation can take according to the text. (3 marks)

4. What is the final stage of the water cycle called where water gathers in rivers and lakes? (1 mark)

5. Why do you think the water cycle is called a 'cycle'? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the water cycle. Include a sun, a mountain with a river, a cloud, and labels for evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a tiny droplet of water. Write a short diary entry (3-4 sentences) describing your journey from a warm puddle on the ground, up into a cloud, and finally falling back down as rain.