

Nova's Guide to the Water Cycle

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

Read Nova the Owl's science journal below. Use the word bank to help you understand the key stages of how water moves around our planet. Answer the questions at the bottom.

Hello! I am Nova, and I love watching the sky. Have you ever wondered where rain comes from? The water cycle is nature's way of recycling water. First, the sun warms up the water in our seas and rivers. This turns the liquid water into an invisible gas called water vapour; this is called evaporation. As the water vapour rises high into the cooler atmosphere, it cools down and turns back into tiny liquid water droplets, forming clouds. We call this condensation. When the clouds get too heavy, the water falls back to Earth as rain, snow, or hail, which is known as precipitation. Finally, the water flows into rivers, lakes, and oceans, where it gathers together in a stage called collection. Then, the whole cycle starts all over again!

Word bank: Evaporation · Condensation · Precipitation · Collection · Water Vapour · Atmosphere · Temperature

1. Using the passage, explain what happens to water when it is warmed by the sun during evaporation. (2 marks)

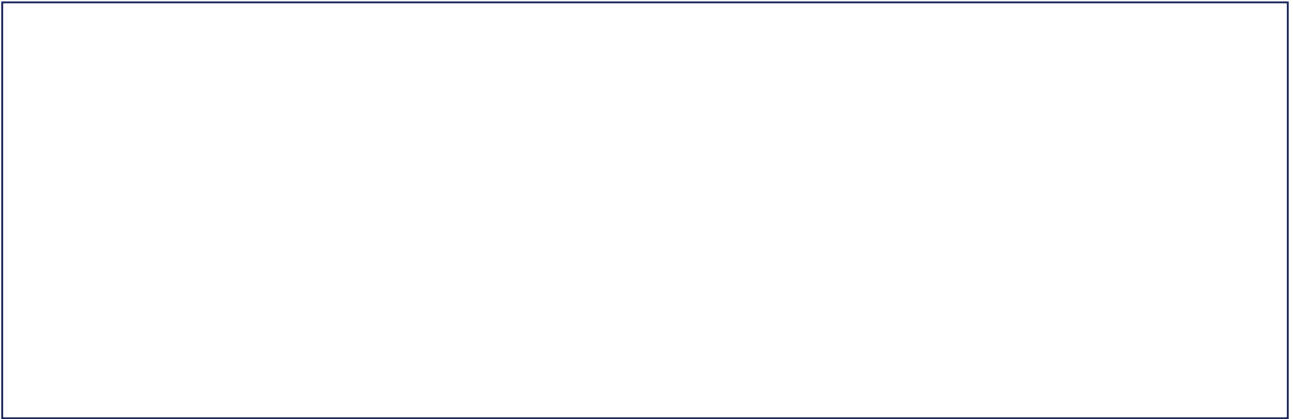
2. What is the difference between condensation and precipitation? (2 marks)

3. Why is the water cycle described as a 'cycle'? (2 marks)

4. If the temperature of the air stayed very hot, what might happen to the clouds? Use your scientific knowledge to explain your answer. (2 marks)

5. Where does water go after it has fallen as precipitation? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the water cycle. Label the four main stages: Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation, and Collection. Include the sun and a cloud in your picture.



Extension challenge: Research how humans use the water cycle in daily life. Can you write a short paragraph explaining how we collect and clean water before it comes out of our taps?