

Nova's Amazing Water Journey

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

Read the story of the water cycle below, then answer the questions to show how well you understand how water moves around our planet.

Nova the owl sat on a high branch, watching the morning sun warm up the local pond. As the sun's heat touched the water, some of it turned into an invisible gas called water vapour. This process is called evaporation. Nova watched the vapour rise high into the cool sky. As it cooled down, it turned back into tiny liquid water droplets, forming fluffy white clouds. This is known as condensation. When the clouds became too heavy and full, the water fell back to the ground as rain, snow, or hail. This is called precipitation. Finally, the water flowed over the land and gathered back into the pond, river, or ocean. This is the collection stage, and the whole cycle is ready to start all over again!

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

1. What causes water to turn into vapour during the evaporation stage? (2 marks)

2. Explain what happens to the water vapour when it gets high into the cool sky. (2 marks)

3. List the three different forms precipitation can take, as mentioned in the passage. (3 marks)

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

5. If a puddle in your playground disappears on a sunny day, which stage of the water cycle is taking place? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the water cycle. Make sure to label your drawing with the four stages: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a tiny droplet of water. Write three sentences describing your journey through the cycle, starting from the ocean and ending as rain on a mountain.