

The Water Cycle



Label the picture with the correct words:

Evaporation

Condensation

Precipitation

Storage

What is the water cycle?

Evaporation: Evaporation occurs when the heat from the sun causes water on the earth's surface to evaporate into water vapor (eVAPORate).

Condensation: Once the water vapor enters the atmosphere, it cools and forms clouds. Clouds consist of billions and billions of water droplets. This process is called condensation. When the water droplets become too heavy for the cloud to hold, they fall to the earth as precipitation.

Precipitation: The water that falls back to earth from the clouds is called precipitation. Precipitation can fall as rain, snow, hail or sleet. Once the water reaches the ground, the cycle starts all over again with evaporation.

Storage: A supply of water set aside for future use. Examples include lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

