Name: _____ Date: _____

The Water Cycle

Circle group

Water is on the move all the time. It goes round and round in the water cycle.

First, the sun warms the water in seas, lakes, and puddles. Some of the water turns into a gas. The gas is called water vapor. This step is evaporation. The vapor goes up in the air.

High in the sky, the air is cold. The vapor cools. It turns back into tiny drops of water. This step is condensation. The drops join to make a cloud.

Big, heavy drops fall as rain or snow. This step is precipitation.

The water runs into streams and rivers. It flows back to the sea. Then the cycle starts again.

Questions

1. What is the water cycle?

_____

_____

2. What warms the water?

_____

_____

3. What is water vapor?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the vapor high in the sky?

_____

_____

5. How does water fall from a cloud?

_____

_____

6. Why is it called a cycle?

_____

_____

Words to know

evaporation: when water turns into a gas and rises into the air
water vapor: water in the form of a gas that you cannot see
condensation: when a gas cools and turns back into drops of water
precipitation: water that falls from clouds, such as rain or snow
cycle: something that happens in the same order again and again

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Water Cycle

Triangle group

Water is always on the move. It goes around and around in a path called the water cycle.

First, the sun warms the water in seas, lakes, and puddles. Some of the water turns into a gas called water vapor. This is called evaporation. The vapor rises into the air.

High in the sky, the air is cold. The vapor cools and turns back into tiny drops of water. This is called condensation. The drops join to make a cloud.

When the drops get big and heavy, they fall as rain or snow. This is called precipitation.

The water runs into streams and rivers. Then it flows back to the sea, and the cycle starts again.

Questions

1. What is the water cycle?

_____

_____

2. What warms the water so that it evaporates?

_____

_____

3. What is water vapor?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the vapor high in the sky?

_____

_____

5. What are two ways water falls from clouds?

_____

_____

6. Why is it called a cycle?

_____

Words to know

evaporation: when water turns into a gas and rises into the air
water vapor: water in the form of a gas that you cannot see
condensation: when a gas cools and turns back into drops of water
precipitation: water that falls from clouds, such as rain or snow
cycle: something that happens in the same order again and again

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Water Cycle

Square group

Water is constantly on the move. It travels around and around in a continuous path called the water cycle.

To begin, the sun warms the water in oceans, lakes, and even puddles. Some of that water changes into an invisible gas called water vapor. This process is called evaporation, and the vapor rises into the air.

High in the sky, the air is much colder. There the vapor cools and changes back into tiny droplets of water. This process is called condensation. Countless droplets gather together to form a cloud.

When the droplets grow large and heavy, they fall to the ground as rain or snow. This process is called precipitation.

The water then runs into streams and rivers, which carry it back to the ocean, and the entire cycle begins again.

Questions

1. What is the water cycle?

_____

_____

2. What provides the heat that makes water evaporate?

_____

_____

3. What is water vapor, and where does it go?

_____

_____

4. Describe what happens to the vapor high in the sky.

_____

_____

5. In what two forms does precipitation fall?

_____

_____

6. Why is the word cycle a good name for this process?

_____

_____

Words to know

evaporation: when water turns into a gas and rises into the air
water vapor: water in the form of a gas that you cannot see
condensation: when a gas cools and turns back into drops of water
precipitation: water that falls from clouds, such as rain or snow
cycle: something that happens in the same order again and again

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Water Cycle

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Water Cycle

Easier · 113 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. The path water takes as it goes round and round.
2. The sun.
3. Water that has turned into a gas and goes up in the air.
4. It cools and turns into tiny drops. The drops join to make a cloud. This is condensation.
5. As rain or snow. This is precipitation.
6. The water goes round and round and starts again, so the same water is used again and again.

Triangle: The Water Cycle

This passage · 116 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. The path water takes as it moves around the Earth, again and again.
2. The sun.
3. Water that has turned into a gas and rises into the air.
4. It cools and turns back into tiny drops of water, which come together to make a cloud. This is condensation.
5. As rain and as snow. This is called precipitation.
6. The water goes around in a circle and starts over again, so the same water is used many times.

Square: The Water Cycle

Harder · 132 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. The continuous path water travels around and around, again and again.
2. The sun.
3. An invisible gas that water changes into. It rises into the air.
4. It cools and changes back into tiny droplets, which gather together to form a cloud. This is condensation.
5. Rain and snow.
6. The water moves in a circle and begins again, so the same water is used over and over.