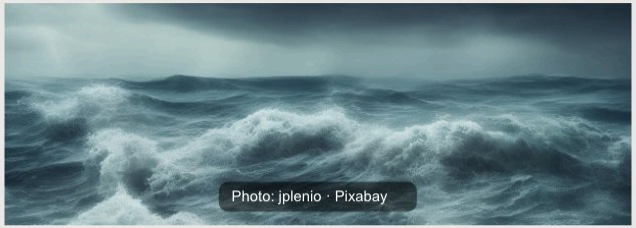
The Water Cycle in Motion

Driven by the sun, pulled by gravity





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Where Next?

A raindrop lands on school grass. What happens next?

- **A** Soaks into soil
- **B** Flows away as runoff
- **C** Taken up by a plant
- **D** Evaporates back to air

Vote with your hands, then explain why.

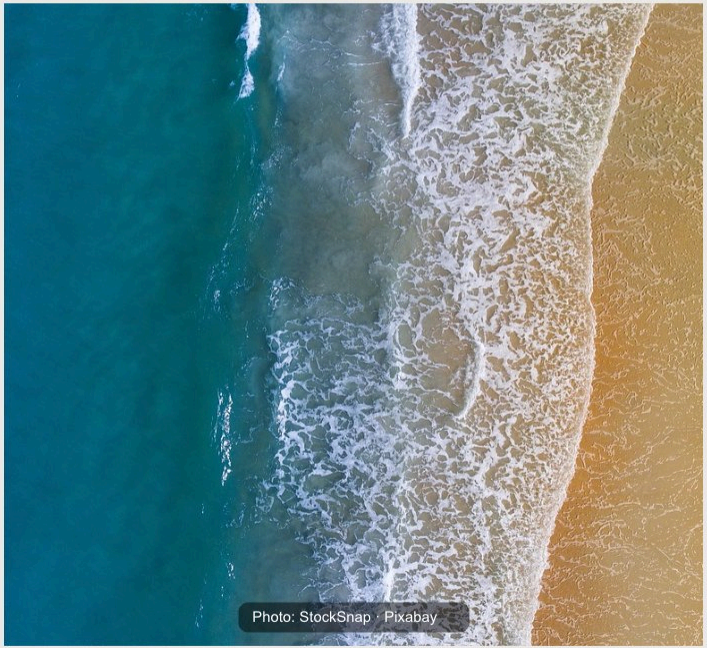
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MOSTLY SALTY

97.5%

of Earth's water is salty

Most fresh water is locked in ice and groundwater.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Earth's water supply never grows.

The same water has cycled for billions of years.



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Think, pair, share

What lifts water up to clouds, and what pulls it back down?



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Follow a Water Molecule



▶ 0:00 – 5:00

- Watch how water changes state
- Spot sun lifting water up
- Spot gravity pulling water down

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Key words

evaporation

liquid water turns to invisible vapor gas

transpiration

plants release vapor from leaves to air

condensation

cooled vapor turns to liquid drops, forming clouds

precipitation

water falling as rain, snow, sleet, or hail

runoff

water flowing over land to streams and oceans

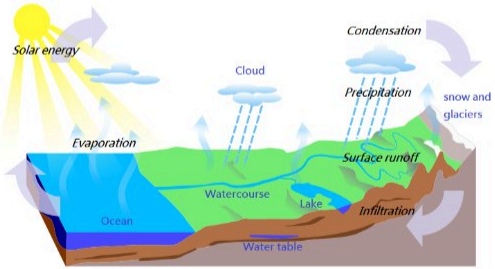
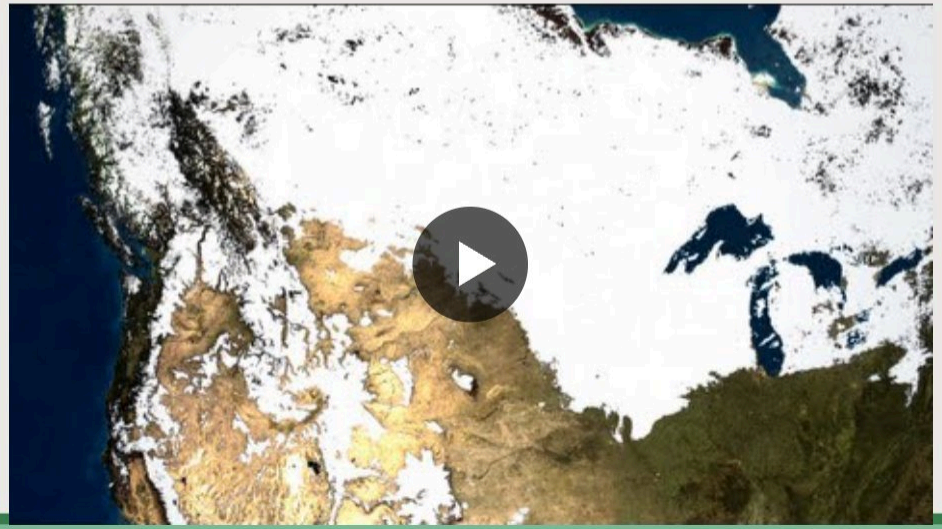


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Sun Energy, Gravity Power



▶ 0:00 – 5:00

- Notice evaporation from oceans and lakes
- Notice clouds, rain, and downhill flow

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Your task

Build a labeled water-cycle model that shows sun and gravity at work.

1. Sketch ocean, land, clouds with arrows for movement
2. Label evaporation, condensation, precipitation, runoff
3. Add sun arrows for energy and down arrows for gravity
4. Write one sentence to explain your cycle

10 min

In pairs

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Connect the Cycle

Sun heats water

Gravity pulls precipitation down

Stored in oceans, ice, groundwater

Water Cycle

Vapor rises and condenses

Runoff flows downhill

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What could this be?

Drops form outside a cold glass on a warm day. No spill — why?



Photo: Pexels · Pixabay

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Quick quiz

1. What energy source drives evaporation?
2. What force pulls rain down and moves runoff downhill?
3. Which process turns vapor into clouds?
4. Where is most of Earth's water stored?

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