

Grade 3 Science Assessment: The Wonderful Water Cycle

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

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you with scientific terms. Ensure your answers are clear and written in full sentences where requested.

Nova the owl is watching the forest from her high branch. She notices that after the morning sun warms the puddles on the ground, the water seems to disappear. Later, the sky turns grey, and rain begins to fall, filling the stream below. Nova knows this is all part of the Earth's natural water cycle.

Word bank: evaporation · condensation · precipitation · collection · water vapour · temperature · sunlight · clouds

1. Nova notices that puddles disappear when the sun shines. What is this process called and why does the water change state? (2 marks)

2. Explain what happens to water vapour when it rises high into the sky and cools down. What does this form? (2 marks)

3. List three different forms of precipitation that might fall from the sky in the UK. (3 marks)

4. Max the monkey is trying to understand why it rains. If the temperature of the air gets much colder, how does this affect the water cycle? Use the term 'condensation' in your answer. (4 marks)

5. What is meant by the term 'collection' in the water cycle? Give an example of where water might collect on the Earth's surface. (3 marks)

6. Imagine you are a tiny droplet of water in the sea. Describe your journey through the water cycle. Include the following steps: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection. Use scientific language and explain how the sun affects your journey. (6 marks)

7. Why is the sun essential for the water cycle to continue working? If there were no sunlight, what would happen to the cycle? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw and label a diagram of the water cycle. Include arrows to show the direction of movement and label the four main stages: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine a world where the water cycle stopped. Write a short paragraph explaining how this would change the life of Bea the honeybee and the plants in her garden.