

Nova's Amazing Water Cycle

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

Read the story about Nova the owl. Then, answer the questions below. Use the word bank to help you.

Nova the owl loves to watch the sky at night, but she also loves to watch the rain during the day. She knows that water is always moving in a big circle. First, the warm sun shines down on the oceans and lakes. This warms the water and turns it into invisible gas. This part is called evaporation. The gas rises high up into the sky where the air is much cooler. As the gas cools down, it turns back into tiny water droplets. These droplets bunch together to form fluffy clouds. This step is called condensation. When the clouds get too full and heavy, they cannot hold the water anymore. The water falls back down to the ground as rain, snow, or hail. We call this precipitation. The water flows into rivers and back into the sea. Then, the whole cycle starts all over again. Nova thinks it is clever how the Earth recycles its own water. It means the water we drink today is the same water that has been moving around the world for millions of years!

Word bank: Evaporation · Condensation · Precipitation · Sun · Clouds · Rain

1. What warms the water to start the process of evaporation? (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. Name the three main stages of the water cycle mentioned in the text. (3 marks) (3 marks)

3. Why does the water turn into clouds? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. What happens when a cloud gets too heavy? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Nova says the water is recycled. Do you think this is helpful for our planet? Why? (2 marks) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture showing the sun, a cloud, and rain falling. Label your drawing using the words: Sun, Cloud, and Rain.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a tiny drop of water. Write two sentences about your journey from the sea to the sky and back down again.