

Nova's Journey Through the Water Cycle

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

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below in full sentences.

Nova the barn owl loves to watch the night sky, but today she is observing the earth below. As the morning sun warms the surface of the local pond, Nova notices tiny, invisible bubbles rising into the air. This is evaporation, where liquid water turns into water vapour. As this warm vapour rises higher into the cool atmosphere, it begins to lose heat. Tiny droplets cluster together to form fluffy clouds; this stage is called condensation. Nova watches as the clouds grow heavy and dark. Eventually, the water becomes too heavy to stay suspended in the air. It falls back to the ground as precipitation, which we see as rain, snow, or hail. The water collects in rivers and streams, eventually making its way back to the pond. Nova hoots softly, realising that the water she drinks today is the same water that has been cycling around our planet for millions of years. The cycle is a never-ending journey, powered by the warmth of the sun and the pull of gravity, keeping all living things hydrated and healthy.

Word bank: Evaporation · Condensation · Precipitation · Vapour · Atmosphere · Collection

1. According to the passage, what are the three main stages of the water cycle? (2 marks)

2. What does the water vapour turn into when it cools down in the atmosphere? (1 mark)

3. Why does the water eventually fall back to the ground as precipitation? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why might Nova describe the water cycle as a 'never-ending journey'? (2 marks)

5. Why is the water cycle important for life on Earth? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the water cycle showing the sun, a pond, clouds, and arrows indicating the movement of water. Label the stages: evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.



Extension challenge: Research how plants contribute to the water cycle through a process called 'transpiration' and write two sentences explaining what you have discovered.