

Nova's Guide to the Water Cycle

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

Use the prompts below to write a detailed explanation of how water moves around our planet. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

The water cycle is a fascinating, never-ending journey that water takes as it travels from the Earth's surface into the sky and back again.

Word bank: evaporation · condensation · precipitation · collection · water vapour · as a result · subsequently · furthermore · due to · transform

1. Evaporation: How does the sun's energy affect water in oceans and lakes? Start your paragraph with: When the sun warms the Earth's surface... (2 marks)

2. Condensation: What happens to water vapour as it rises into the atmosphere? Start your paragraph with: As the water vapour rises higher, it begins to cool down and... (2 marks)

3. Precipitation: How does water return to the Earth? Start your paragraph with: When clouds become heavy and saturated, the water falls as... (2 marks)

4. Collection: Where does the water go once it reaches the ground? Start your paragraph with: Once the water reaches the ground, it flows into rivers, lakes, and oceans, which is known as... (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Why is the water cycle essential for life on Earth? Start your paragraph with: The water cycle is vital because it ensures that... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Nova the Owl wants to know: what would happen to the water cycle if the Earth suddenly became much colder? Write a short paragraph explaining your prediction.