

Nova's Journey Through the Water Cycle

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

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Nova the owl sat on her branch, peering down at the shimmering lake. She wondered how the water travelled to the clouds and back again. As the morning sun warmed the surface of the lake, the water turned into invisible water vapour and rose high into the sky. This process is known as evaporation. As the vapour cooled in the higher atmosphere, it turned back into tiny liquid droplets, clustering together to form fluffy white clouds; Nova knew this as condensation. When the clouds became too heavy with moisture, the water fell back to the Earth as rain, hail, or snow, a process called precipitation. Finally, the water flowed across the landscape, gathering in rivers and returning to the lake, which is known as collection. Nova blinked her large eyes, realising that the water she saw today had been travelling in this endless, repeating loop for millions of years. The water cycle is a marvellous example of nature's perfect recycling system, ensuring that life on Earth always has the water it needs to flourish.

Word bank: evaporation · condensation · precipitation · collection · vapour · atmosphere

1. Name the four main stages of the water cycle mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. What causes the water in the lake to turn into water vapour? (1 mark)

3. Why does Nova describe the water cycle as a 'recycling system'? (2 marks)

4. What happens to the water vapour once it reaches the cooler parts of the atmosphere? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the water cycle is important for life on Earth? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the water cycle featuring Nova the owl watching from a tree. Label the four stages: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.



Extension challenge: Research how humans can impact the water cycle, for example through climate change or deforestation, and write a short paragraph explaining your findings.