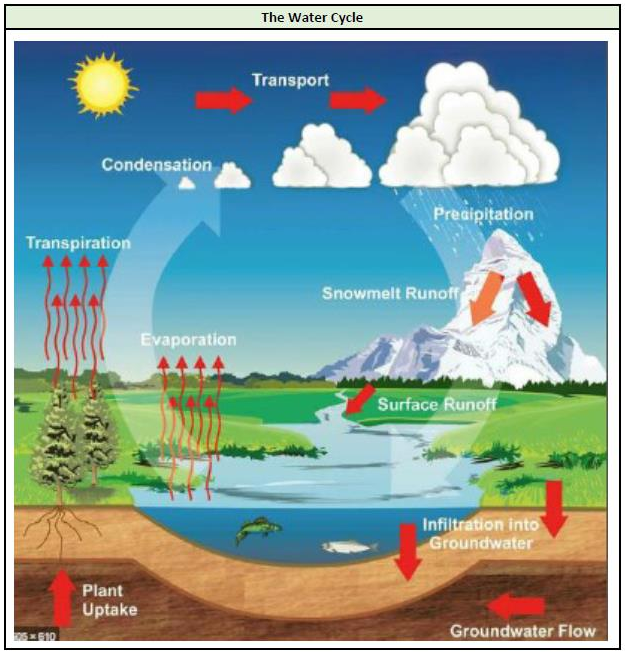
# Slinfold CE Primary School and Pre-School – Geography

## Topic: The Water Cycle

## Strand: Human and Physical Geography

### What should I already know?

**Evaporation** happens when water (a **liquid)** turns into water vapour (a **gas)** when it is heated.
**Condensation** happens when water vapour (a **gas)** turns into small water droplets (**liquid)** when it is cooled.
**Note: The above will be taught alongside this unit of work**
Plants **absorb** water through the soil to help them grow.




### How does the water cycle work?

**Evaporation:**
The Sun causes the water from the Earth to **evaporate.**
This water **evaporates** from seas, lakes, streams and even puddles.
When it **evaporates,** water turns into **water vapour.**
**Condensation:**
As the **water vapour** rises, it cools down.
As it cools down, **condensation** happens and **water vapour condenses** to small droplets of water.
Clouds are made from a mix of dry air and small droplets of water.
**Precipitation:**
As **condensation** continues to happen, more droplets of **water vapour** are formed.
When the droplets become heavy and large enough, they fall back to the Earth's surface in the form of rain or snow.
**Runoff and Transpiration:**
As **precipitation** happens in the form of rain or snow falling back to Earth, water is **absorbed** into the soil.
This water is used by plants to grow - when water from plant leaves **evaporates** back into the **atmosphere**, this is called **transpiration.**
Water may also run off and enter oceans, seas and rivers.
Water then **evaporates** again and the water cycle begins again!

### Vocabulary

| | |
|---|---|
| absorb | soak up or take in |
| atmosphere | the layer of air or other **gases** around a planet |
| condensation | small drops of water which form when **water vapour** or steam touches a cold **surface**, such as a window |
| evaporation | to turn from liquid into gas; pass away in the form of **vapour** |
| gas | a form of matter that is neither **liquid** nor solid. A **gas** rapidly spreads out when it is warmed and contracts when it is cooled. |
| groundwater | water that is found under the ground. **Groundwater** has usually passed down through the soil and become trapped by rocks. |
| liquid | in a form that flows easily and is neither a solid nor a gas. |
| precipitation | rain, snow, sleet, dew, etc, formed by **condensation** of **water vapour** in the atmosphere |
| runoff | rain in excess of the amount **absorbed** by the ground |
| surface | the flat top part of something or the outside of it |
| transpiration | **evaporation** of water from a plant's leaves, stem, or flowers |
| water vapour | water in the **gaseous** state, esp when due to **evaporation** at a temperature below the boiling point |

### Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

- Present what you know about the water cycle using a variety of skills using appropriate vocabulary.
- Observe **evaporation** and **condensation** in action by using bowls of water and mirrors /glass.