

WATER CYCLE VOCABULARY

Evaporation

The process of liquid turning into a gas. Water is heated by the sun and turned into water vapor.

Condensation

The process of a gas turning into a liquid. As the water vapor rises into the atmosphere, it cools to a liquid. These tiny droplets combine with dust particles to form clouds.

Precipitation

A form of water that falls to the Earth. Includes rain, snow, fog, mist, sleet, or hail.

Accumulation

Occurs when precipitated water collects in rivers, ponds, lakes, oceans, and other bodies of water.

Transpiration

Occurs when plant leaves open and release water into the atmosphere. This water will then be evaporated.

Runoff

Water that moves along the ground surface to bodies of water. A land area that produces runoff is called a **watershed**.

Infiltration

The process by which water on the surface enters the soil.

Sublimation

The conversion of a solid to a gas, which describes how snow and ice change into water vapor without first melting into water.