The Water Cycle



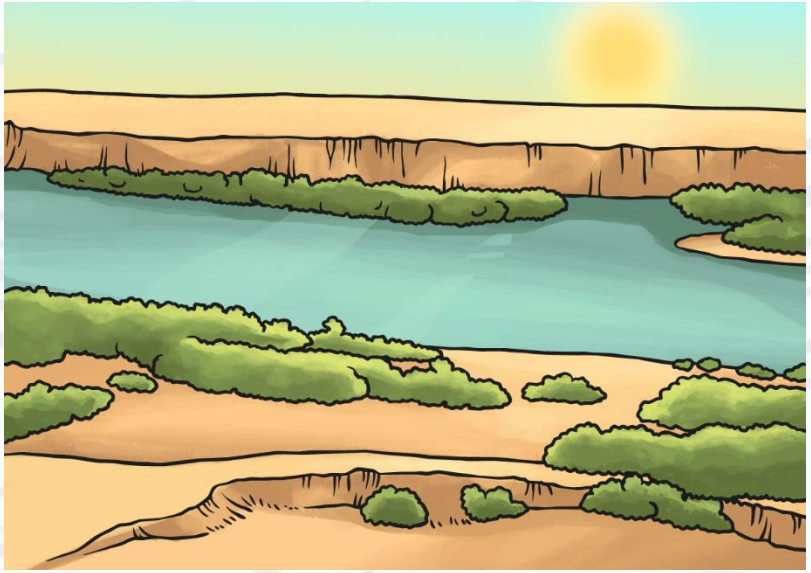
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What is the water cycle?

The water cycle is the name we give to describe the way water moves throughout planet Earth. The water cycle has two other names:

The hydrological cycle

The H_2O cycle



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How does the water move in a cycle?

The water cycle has four main parts. These are the steps the water goes through when it's moving through the Earth:

1. Evaporation
2. Condensation
3. Precipitation
4. Accumulation

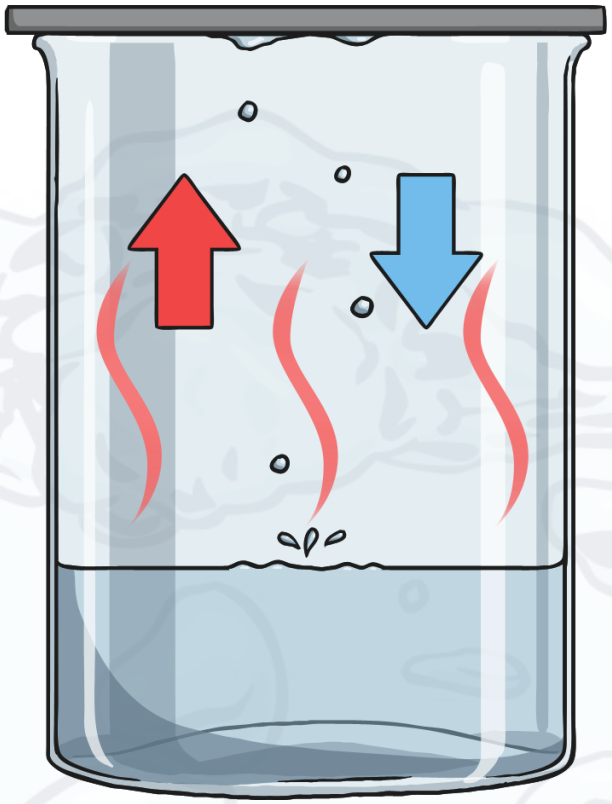


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Evaporation

This happens when bodies of water like lakes, rivers, and oceans heat up. When the water becomes hot, it forms vapours that go into the air.

You might have seen evaporation if you've ever boiled water. The water heats up and then the steam rises from the water!



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Condensation

This is the opposite of evaporation. Condensation happens when the vapour in the air gets cold.

When the vapour gets cold, it gets transformed back into a liquid form; this is what makes clouds!



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Precipitation

Precipitation happens when the water that went up into the sky gets released. Depending on the temperature, the water comes down as liquid or solid.

Rain: when the water comes down as a liquid.

Snow: when the water comes down as a solid.



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Accumulation

This happens when the water collects in one place and forms a river, lake, or any other body of water!

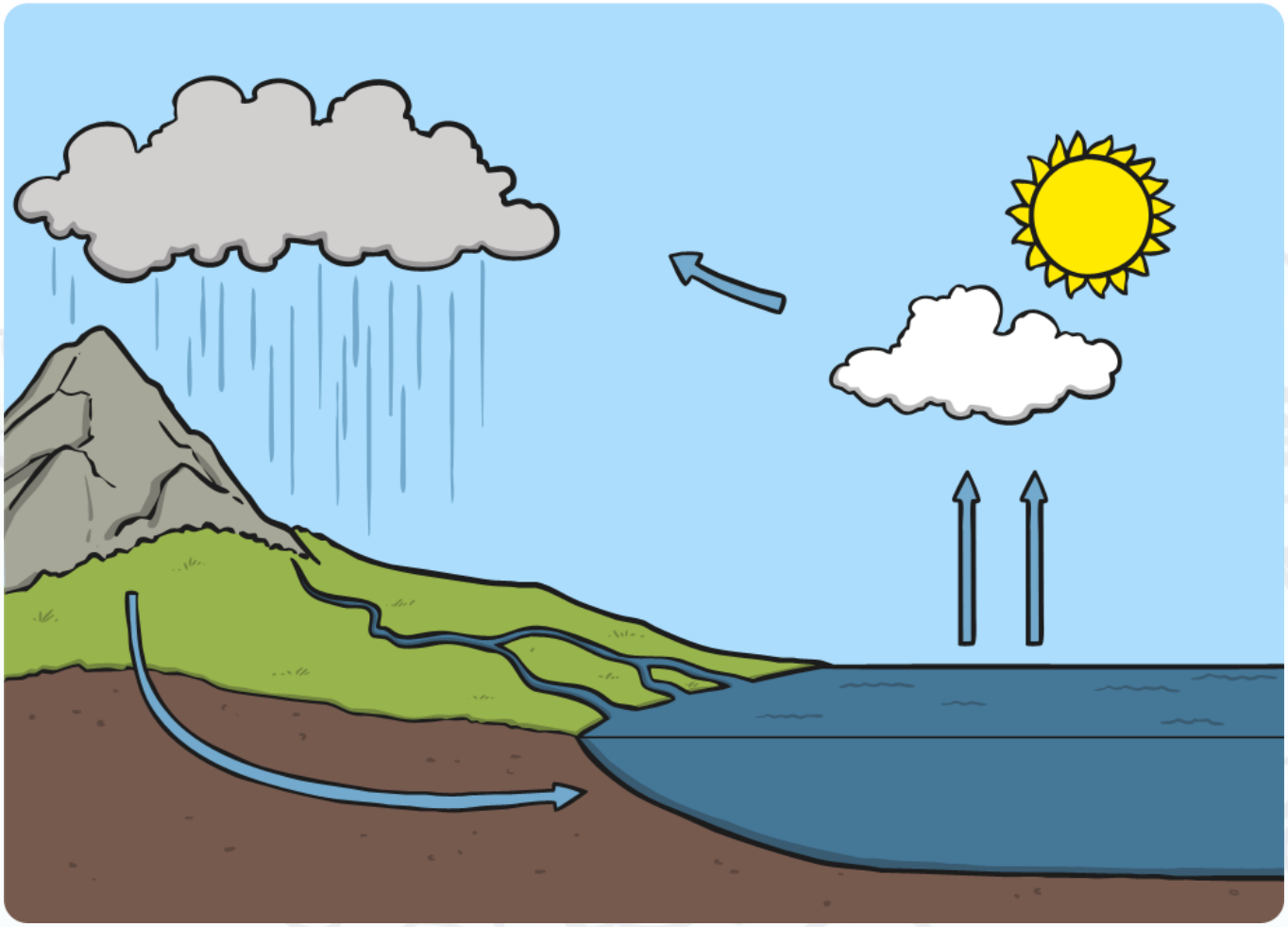
Question: What do you think happens after the water accumulates?

Answer: Evaporation



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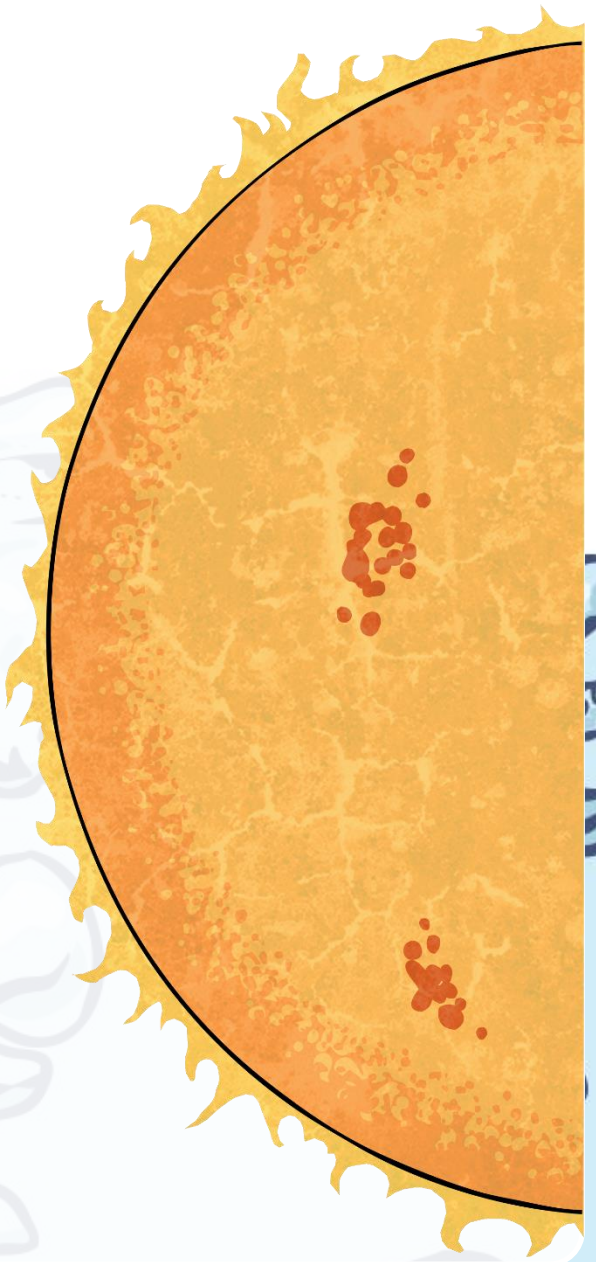
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Fun facts!

The water you drink everyday is the same water that has been around since the Jurassic Period!

The sun is necessary in the water cycle: no sun means no evaporation.

Only 2.5% of the world's water is freshwater.



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