

Vocabulary: Water Cycle



Vocabulary

- Aquifer – an underground layer of porous rock and/or sand that contains water.
- Condensation – change from a gas to a liquid.
 - Condensation of water occurs when water vapor is cooled.
 - Condensation forms clouds, mist, and fog.
- Evaporation – change from a liquid to a gas at temperatures below boiling.
- Freezing – changing from a liquid to a solid.
- Glacier – a large, slowly moving body of snow and ice.
- Melting – changing from a solid to a liquid.
- Phase change – a change from one state of matter to another.
 - The three states of matter found naturally on Earth are solid, liquid, and gas.
 - Types of phase changes include freezing, melting, evaporation, boiling, and condensation.
- Precipitation – water that falls to Earth's surface.
 - Types of precipitation include rain, sleet, snow, hail, and mist. Sleet is frozen rain, and hail consists of frozen balls of ice that can be as large as grapefruit.
- Reservoir – a body of water, often an artificial lake, which is used to store water for human use.
- Runoff – water that moves across the surface of land into streams or rivers.
 - Sources of runoff include heavy rain, snowmelt, or excess irrigation water.
 - Runoff can carry pollutants from the soil into rivers and streams.
- Transpiration – the release of water vapor from the leaves of plants.
- Water cycle – the continuous movement of water from Earth's surface to the atmosphere and back again.