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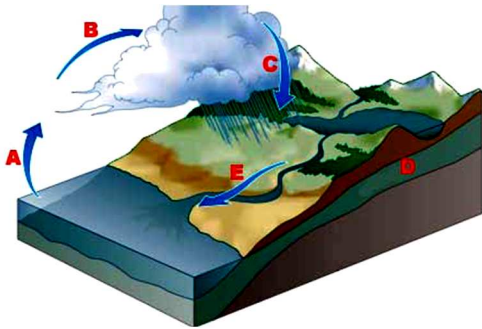
# The Water Cycle

Water is a liquid element covering about 75% of the Earth's surface. It has no color. Nearly 97% of water on Earth is salt water, while the remaining 3% is fresh water. Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen, therefore, water is commonly referred to as H<sub>2</sub>O.



## What is the water cycle?

The water cycle is the common term used to describe the hydrological cycle. Nothing on earth has changed, the same water that was here millions of years ago is still here today. But doesn't water evaporate and disappear? No, water has cycles known as precipitation, evaporation, condensation and collection. The water just goes from one part of the cycle to another. The cycles never stop occurring.



## How does the water cycle work?

The heat from the sun heats the water and changes it from a liquid to a gas called steam or vapor: evaporation. Water vapor rises into the sky, it cools and forms clouds: condensation. The drops come together and become heavier. The drops fall to the ground as rain or snow: precipitation. The water runs over the land collecting in a river, lake or ocean: collection. Finally, the cycle begins again.

## Answer the Questions

1. Write four parts of the water cycle.

2. Is there more salt water or fresh water on Earth?

3. What is the composition of water?

5. Explain what is collection in the water cycle.