

Evaporation

The sun heats water in rivers, lakes, and the ocean and turns it into vapor or steam, which then rises into the air.

Condensation

The vapor cools and turns into tiny water droplets that attach to each other and form clouds.

Water Cycle

Condensation

Precipitation

Evaporation

Collection

Precipitation

Water condenses so much that the air cannot hold it anymore. The clouds get heavy and water falls back to the earth in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow.

Collection

Water falls back to earth as precipitation in the oceans, lakes or rivers or it may end up on land. The cycle starts all over again.