

REAPS READER



Have you helped the environment today?

The Water Cycle

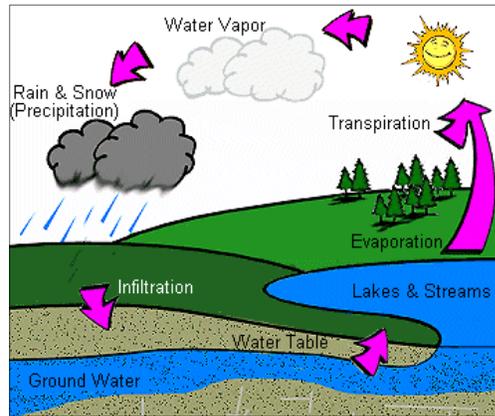


Water vapour is water in gas form that is held in the air until it turns back into water. When it's sticky outside in the summer, it's just water in the air, or humidity. The water changes into fine droplets and make up clouds. When the droplets get bigger they are pulled to the ground as precipitation, or rain, snow or sleet.

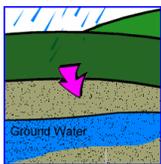
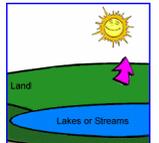
Transpiration happens when plants give off water vapour through tiny pores in their leaves. This is the plant's way of getting rid of waste, just like people and animals sweat when they're hot! This water vapor evaporates into the air and is stored in the atmosphere until it becomes clouds or precipitation.



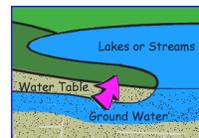
Precipitation is made up of any type of water that falls to the earth like snow, hail, mist, or rain. Most of it (80 percent) evaporates or transpires through plants and never reaches lakes, streams, or groundwater. The rest, about 6-10 inches of precipitation, runs off the land into lakes, streams, wetlands or rivers (also called "surface water"), or, it soaks right into the ground.



Evaporation is when warmth from the sun causes water from lakes, streams, ice, and soils to turn into water vapour in the air. Almost all of the precipitated water (80 percent) goes right back into the air because of evaporation. The rest runs off the land or soaks into the ground to become groundwater.



Infiltration happens when water soaks into the soil from the ground level. It moves underground and moves between the soil and rocks. Some of the water will be soaked up by roots to help plants grow. The plant's leaves eventually release the water into the air through the plant's pores. Some of the water keeps moving down into the soil to a level that is filled with water, called ground water.



Ground water is simply water under the ground where the soil is completely filled or saturated with water. This water is also called an "aquifer." The top of the aquifer is called the Table Top. Ground water moves underground from areas where the elevation is high, like a hilltop, to places that are lowland areas.



DID YOU KNOW???

The coldest day in North American history was February 3, 1947. It was -63°C !!!
BRRRRRRRR!

In partnership with Science World's Scientist and Innovators in the School (SIS) program, REAPS school program is supported by the Program for the Awareness and Learning of Science (BC PALS) which is supported by the province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education.