

# THE HYDROLOGIC CYCLE

A Comprehensive Guide to Earth's Water Movement

## **Evaporation**

The process where liquid water from oceans, lakes, and rivers turns into water vapor due to solar heating, rising into the atmosphere.

## **Transpiration**

The release of water vapor from plant leaves into the air. This "biological evaporation" contributes significantly to atmospheric moisture.

## **Condensation**

As water vapor rises and cools, it transforms back into liquid droplets or ice crystals, forming clouds and fog.

## **Precipitation**

When moisture in clouds becomes too heavy, it falls back to Earth's surface in the form of rain, snow, sleet, or hail.

## **Infiltration & Runoff**

Water either soaks into the soil to replenish groundwater (infiltration) or flows over the land surface into bodies of water (runoff).

## **Collection**

The final stage where water accumulates in oceans and lakes, ready to begin the cycle again through evaporation.