

# THE WATER CYCLE

Nature's continuous movement of water on, above, and below the surface of the Earth.

[ ILLUSTRATION AREA: SUN, CLOUDS, RAIN, MOUNTAINS, AND OCEAN ]

**01.**

## **Evaporation**

Heat from the sun causes water from oceans and lakes to turn into water vapor and rise into the air.

**02.**

## **Condensation**

As water vapor cools down high in the atmosphere, it turns back into tiny liquid water droplets, forming clouds.

**03.**

## **Precipitation**

When clouds become heavy, water falls back to Earth as rain, snow, sleet, or hail.

**04.**

## **Collection**

Water gathers in oceans, rivers, and lakes, or soaks into the ground as groundwater to begin the cycle again.

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