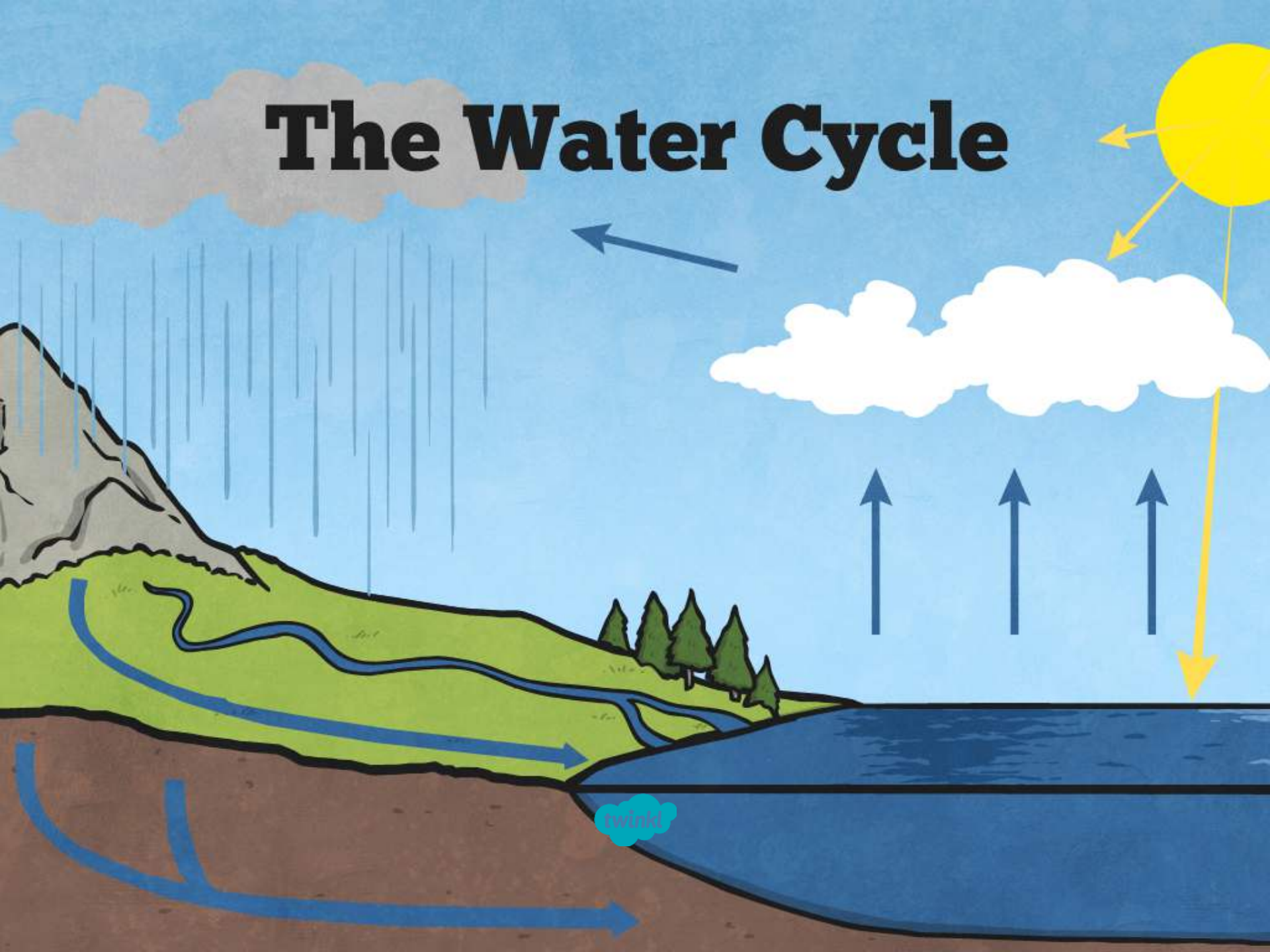
The Water Cycle



Aim

- I can identify and describe the different stages of the water cycle.

Success Criteria

- I can describe the different stages of the water cycle.
- I can explain the role of evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.

What Is the Water Cycle?

Watch this film to find out more about the water cycle.

While you are watching, listen out for the answers to these questions…

How much of the Earth's surface is water?

What causes some of this water to evaporate?

What form is the water in once it has evaporated?

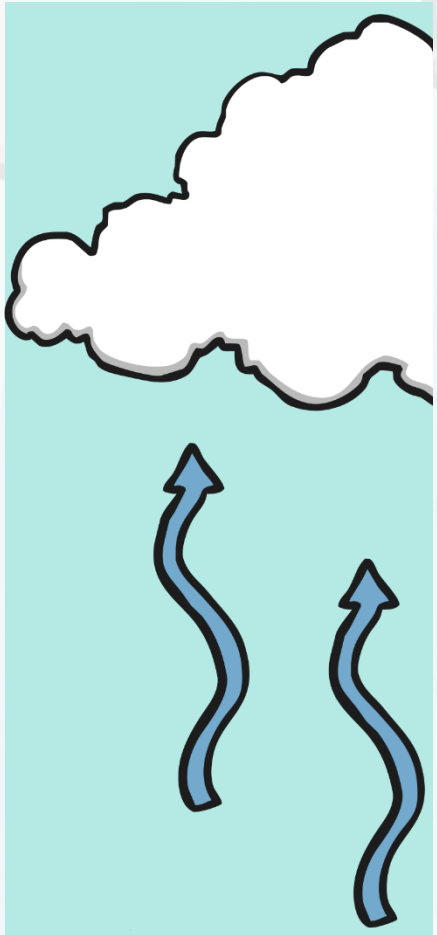
What are clouds made from?

When do the water droplets in clouds fall?

What do these water droplets fall as?

How much water falls on dry land each day?

What Is the Water Cycle?



More than three quarters of the Earth's surface is water.

Some of this water evaporates in the heat of the Sun.

When the water has evaporated, it is in the form of water vapour.

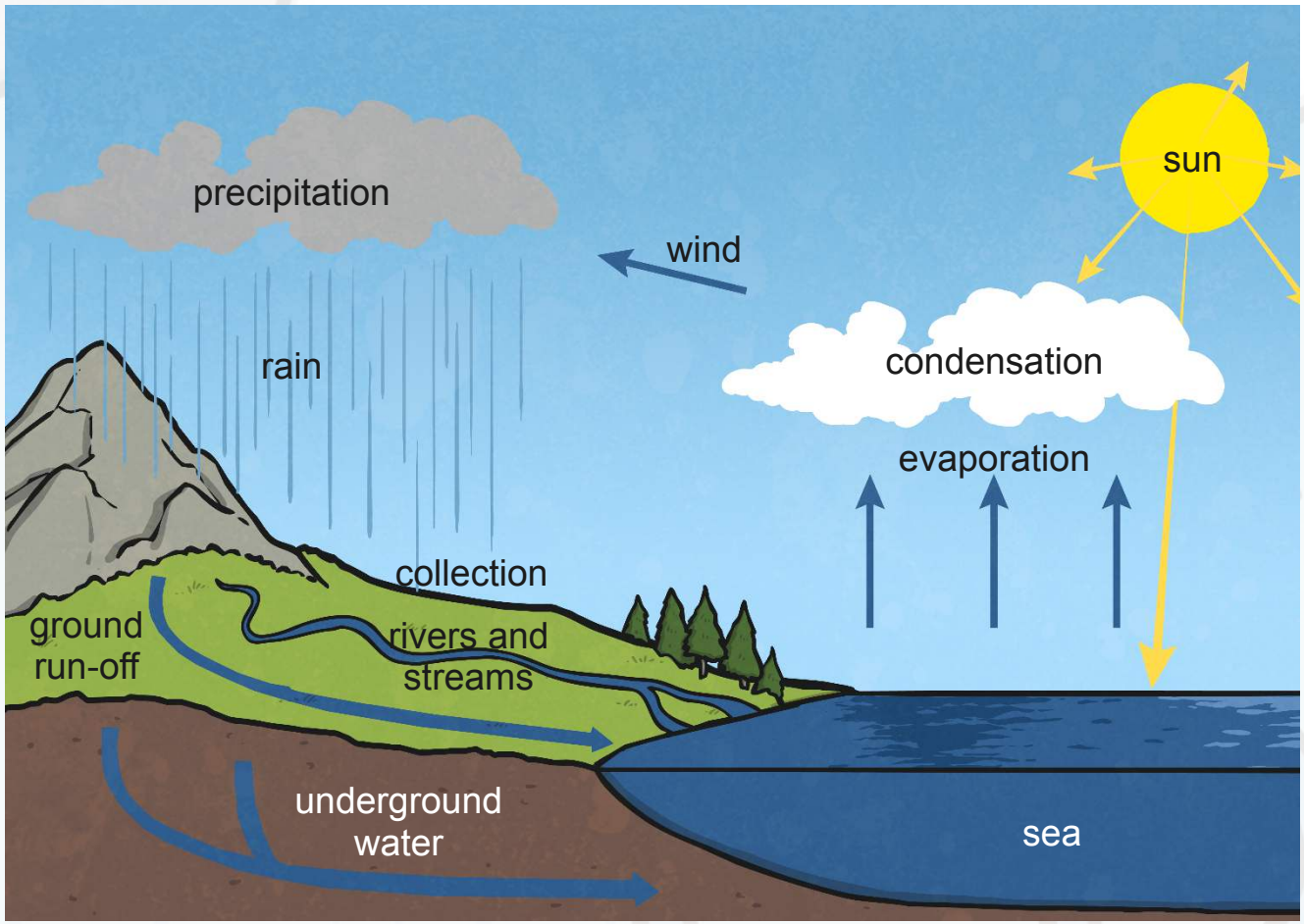
Clouds are made from water vapour that has condensed to form tiny water droplets.

When the water droplets get too big, they fall from the clouds.

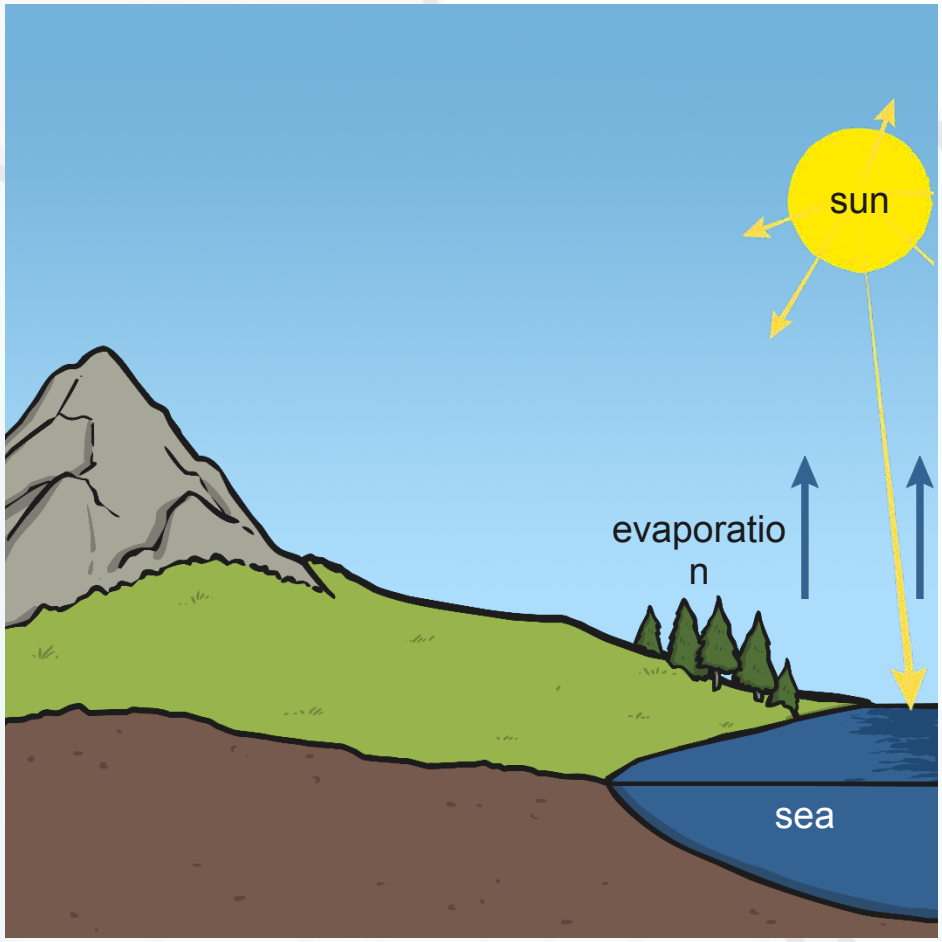
The water droplets can fall as rain, hail or snow.

Three hundred millions litres of water falls on dry land each day.

The Stages of the Water Cycle



The Stages of the Water Cycle



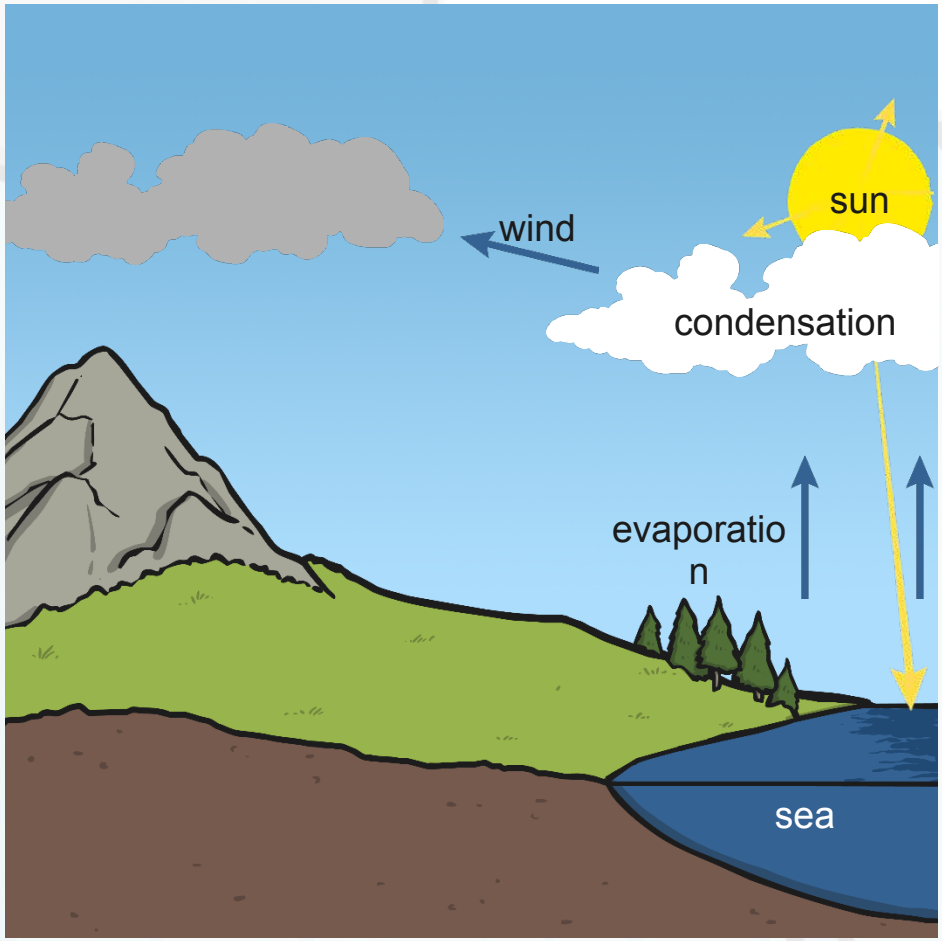
Evaporation

Heat from the Sun causes water to evaporate from seas, lakes, rivers and streams. Water also evaporates from puddles and ponds.

This evaporation happens even on cloudy or cold days.

The liquid water turns into water vapour when it has evaporated.

The Stages of the Water Cycle



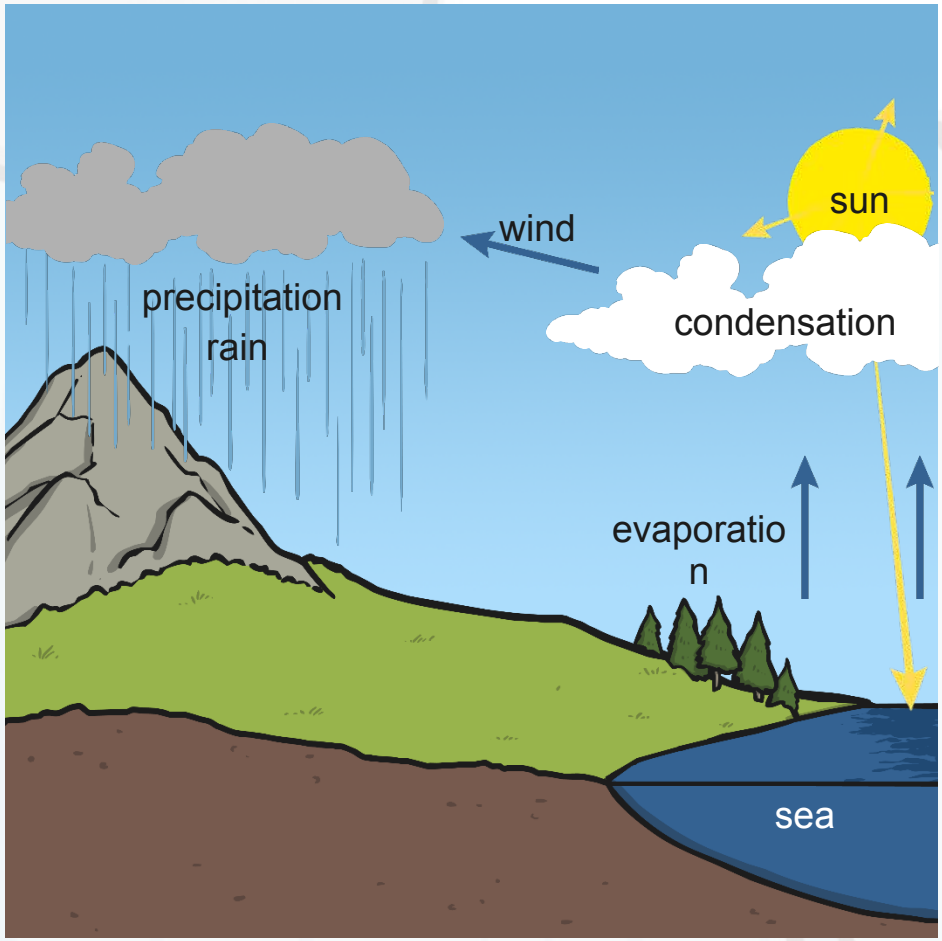
Condensation

The water vapour in the air rises, and as it does so, it cools down.

Eventually, it cools enough for the water vapour to condense and form small droplets of water.

The droplets of water clump together to form clouds.

The Stages of the Water Cycle



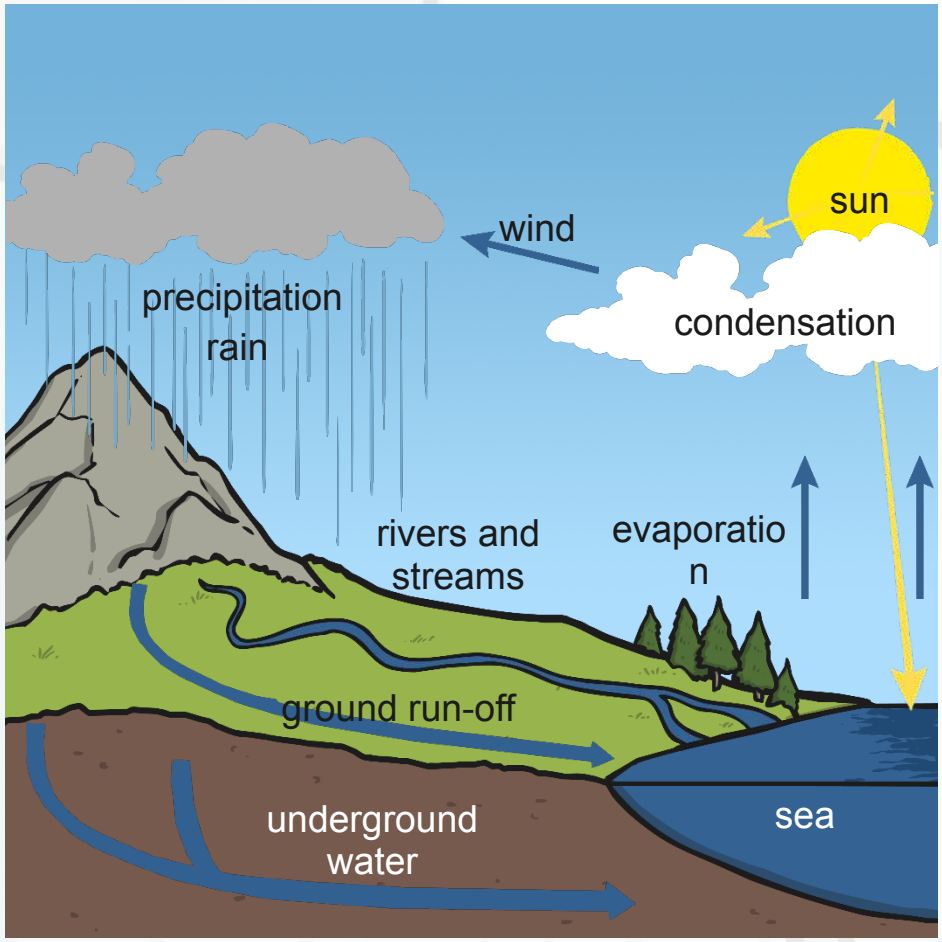
Precipitation

As more water vapour condenses, more water droplets are formed in the clouds.

Eventually, the water droplets are large enough and heavy enough to fall back to the surface of the Earth.

These droplets of water fall from the clouds in the form of rain, sleet, hail or snow.

The Stages of the Water Cycle



Collection

When water falls back to Earth as precipitation, the water may fall on oceans, lakes, rivers or on the ground.

Water that falls on the ground is either absorbed into the soil, and is used as drinking water for animals and plants, or it runs over the ground and collects in the oceans, lakes and rivers.

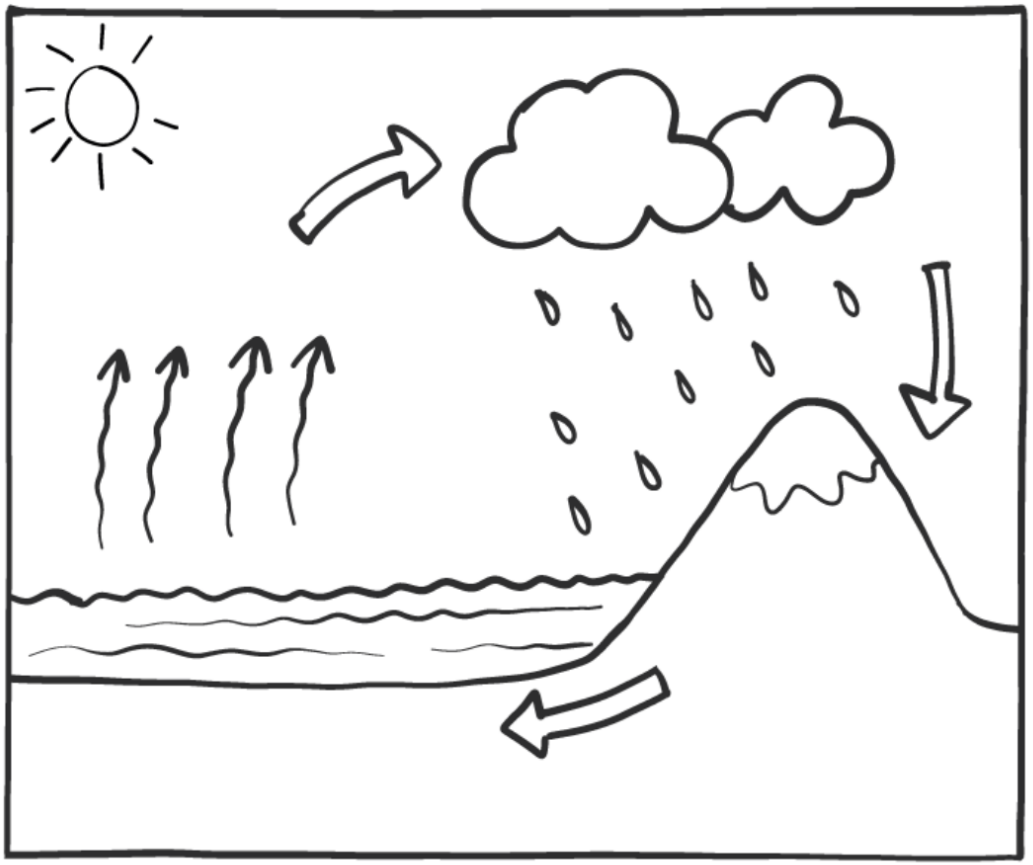
This water is then evaporated and the cycle starts all over again!

Can you describe each process in the water cycle? *Condensation, collection, evaporation, precipitation.*

Option 1 – insert the correct process next to each description.

Option 2 – print out, colour and write the process names in each box.

Option 3 – draw and colour your own water cycle diagram, labelling each process.



	Rain, snow and sleet from rain clouds
	Water running from land into the ocean
	Sun heats the waters and dries it up
	Water vapor in the atmosphere turns to water

Follow these instructions to make your own Mini Water World!

Place a layer of compost in a clear plastic cup.

Sprinkle some cress seeds onto the compost.

Pour on enough water to make the compost damp, but not soaking.

Stretch cling film over the cup to form a lid.

Over the next few days, watch your Mini Water World. You should be able to see the water cycle in action!

The water from the compost will evaporate as water vapour. When it rises, it will hit the cooler cling film and condense, forming water droplets on the cling film. As these droplets grow bigger, they will get heavier, and eventually fall from the cling film back onto the compost. The cycle will then start again!