

# 4th Grade Reading: The Water Cycle (Nonfiction)

4th Grade - nonfiction comprehension and text structure | 20 minutes

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Read the passage:

Earth's water is always on the move in a never-ending journey called the water cycle. It starts when the sun heats water in oceans, lakes, and rivers. The heat turns some of that water into an invisible gas called water vapor. This step is called evaporation. As the water vapor rises high into the sky, the air gets colder, and the vapor turns back into tiny drops of liquid. This is called condensation, and it forms clouds. When the drops in a cloud grow heavy enough, they fall back to Earth as rain or snow. Scientists call this precipitation. The water collects in rivers and oceans, and then the whole cycle begins again. Because the same water is used over and over, the water you drink today may have fallen as rain thousands of years ago.

## Read the passage. Then answer each question in a complete sentence using the text.

1. What is the water cycle?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the sun do to start the cycle?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is condensation?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Use context clues: what does 'precipitation' mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the main idea of the passage?

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## Challenge

6. Why does the author say your water may have fallen as rain long ago?

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