



The Water Cycle: Why is water so important?

Very Important Vocabulary:

Processes: Processes are steps or changes that happen in a certain order. In geography, processes like the water cycle or erosion show how the Earth's surface and weather keep changing over time.

Evaporation: Evaporation is when liquid water from oceans, lakes, or rivers heats up (usually from the sun) and turns into a gas called water vapour. This is the first step in the water cycle.

Vapour (Water Vapour): Water vapour is invisible gas made when water evaporates. It rises into the air and helps form clouds during the water cycle.

Condensation: Condensation happens when water vapour cools down high in the sky and changes back into tiny droplets of water, forming clouds.

Precipitation: Precipitation is when water falls from the sky as rain, snow, sleet, or hail. It happens when the water droplets in clouds get too heavy.

Reservoirs: Reservoirs are large, man-made lakes where fresh water is stored. They collect rainwater or river water so it can be used for drinking, farming, and industry.

The Water Cycle Never Stops

Water is always moving in a cycle: it evaporates from oceans and lakes, condenses into clouds, then falls as precipitation like rain or snow. It then flows back to rivers or sinks into the ground—ready to start the cycle again.

Plants and Soil Help the Water Cycle

After rain falls, some water runs off into rivers, but some soaks into the ground or is released back into the air by plants (a process called transpiration). All parts of the cycle help keep Earth's water moving.

Water is Not Shared Equally in the UK

Some parts of the UK (like the southeast) are drier and use more water, while others (like the northwest) get more rain. Water has to be transferred through pipes and reservoirs to help balance supply and demand.

Clean Water Costs Money to Produce

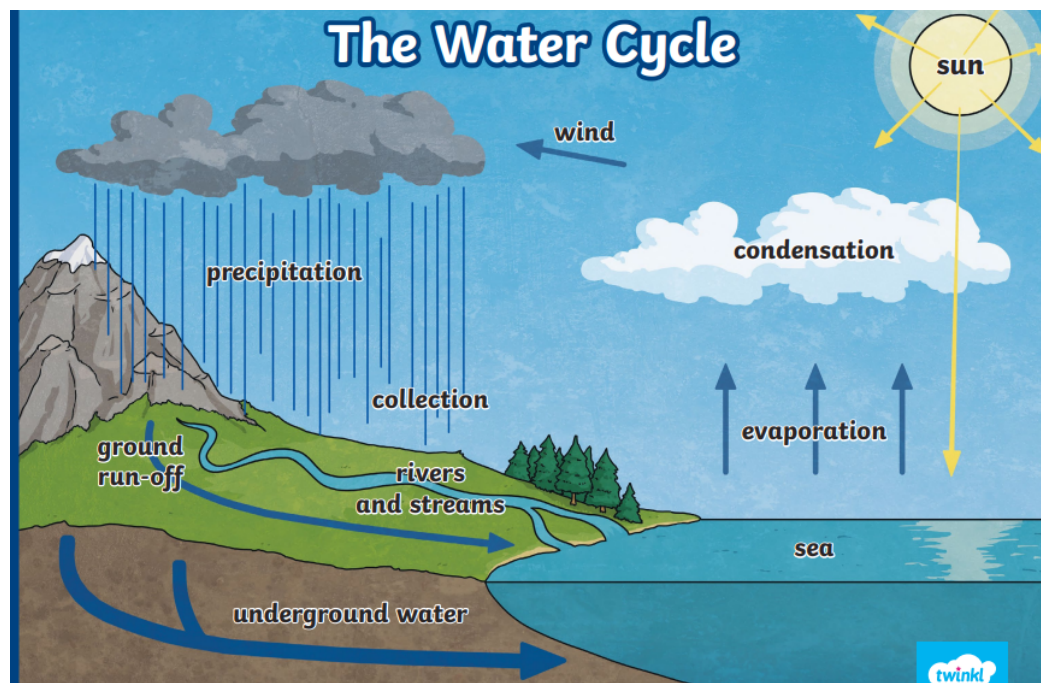
Water must be cleaned before we can drink it. This involves removing dirt, chemicals, and germs using special machines and chemicals. Maintaining water pipes and pumps also takes money and effort.

United Nations Goal 6

The United Nations' Goal 6 aims to give everyone access to clean water and toilets by 2030. This helps people stay healthy, go to school, and build better futures—especially in poorer areas.

Water is Essential for Life on Earth

Every living thing needs water to survive and grow. It helps our bodies work properly and supports farming, energy, and wildlife. That's why protecting water and using it wisely is so important.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

