

Water Cycle

CONTENTS

Think About . . .



Why Is Earth Called the Water Planet?	2
Salt Water	3
Fresh Water on Earth's Surface	4
Fresh Water in the Ground	5
Fresh Water in Plants	6
Fresh Water in the Atmosphere	7
How Water Changes Form	8
What Is the Water Cycle?	10
Earth's Weather	12



People in Science

Luke Howard	13
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Did You Know?

Water Is a Resource	14
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Glossary	16
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Glossary

absorb to take in or soak up

atmosphere layer of air that surrounds Earth

cloud mass of tiny water droplets or ice crystals in the air

condensation process of changing from gas to liquid when heat is taken away

desalination process of removing salts from ocean water

estuary area where a river meets the ocean and fresh water mixes with salt water

evaporation process of changing from liquid to gas when heat is added

freeze to turn from a liquid into a solid when heat is taken away

glacier huge, heavy mass of slowly moving ice

groundwater fresh water that is stored in the ground

humidity amount of water vapor in the air

iceberg floating chunk of ice that broke off an ice cap or glacier

ice cap thick sheet of ice covering a large area

irrigation process of bringing water to dry places for growing crops

lake large body of water surrounded by land

melt to turn from a solid into a liquid when heat is added

ocean large body of salt water that covers almost three-fourths of Earth; the world ocean is divided into the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, and Arctic Oceans

photosynthesis process by which green plants use the energy in sunlight to make their own food

porous full of tiny pores or openings and able to absorb liquid

precipitation any form of water that falls from clouds to Earth, such as rain, snow, sleet, or hail

resource something from nature that living things use

river fresh water flowing in a channel

runoff water on Earth's land that is carried by gravity to rivers, lakes, and oceans

surface water water on Earth's surface in lakes, ponds, and rivers

transpiration process by which water evaporates through tiny holes in a plant's leaves

water conservation process of saving water

water cycle constant movement of water from Earth to the atmosphere and back to Earth; water evaporates, condenses to form clouds, and falls to Earth as precipitation

water table highest level of soil and rock that is completely filled with groundwater

water treatment plant place where water is treated to make it safe to drink

water vapor water in the form of a gas

weather condition of the atmosphere at a certain place and time