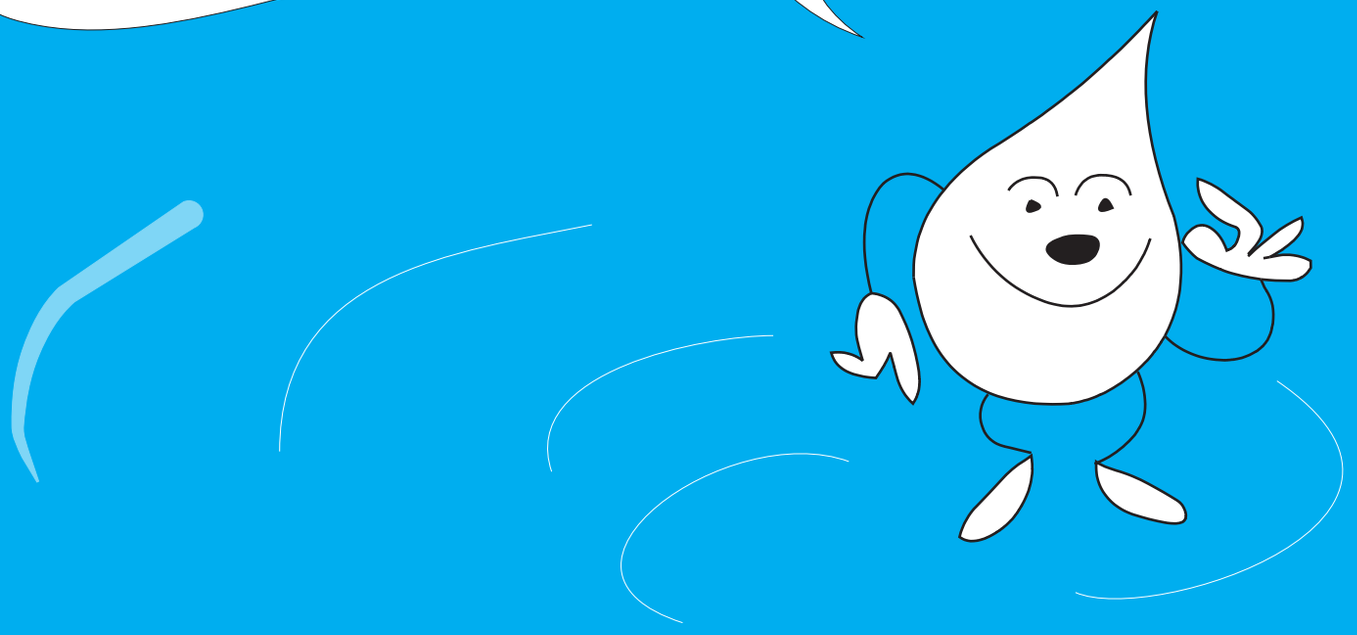
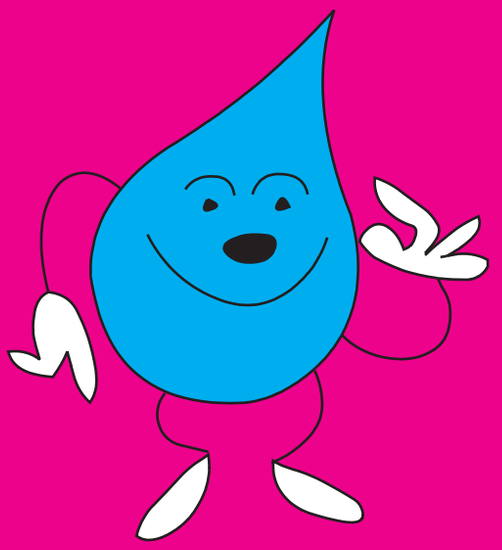
A Trip With Drip
The Water Drop

Greetings to you. My name is Drip, and I invite you to come with me on a trip. On this trip we will see and read and find out more about me, and what I mean…



Let's start our trip from far out in space. Down there is Planet Earthhome to millions and billions of living things. But tell me, what do you see? What colour makes up most of this planet? Yes it is blue. And what does blue stand for? Water, of course. You can see that there is more water than land. Almost three-fourths of the surface of our planet is covered with water.

In fact, people often say that our home should be called Planet Water instead of Planet Earth!



Where can you find water on Earth?

Fill in the blanks to find out

_ C _ A N _
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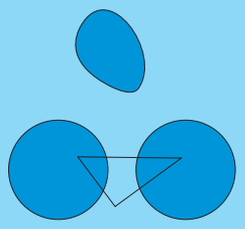
Did You Know?

Water exists in three states:
Liquid: as water
Solid: as ice
Gaseous: as vapour

So much water? Have you ever wondered where all the water comes from?
To find out we need to know about the water cycle. No no, the water does not ride a bicycle!

Let me explain.



Water from oceans, rivers, lakes, soil and plants evaporates when it gets heated by the sun. It changes from being liquid, to being vapour. We call this process evaporation.

The water vapour rises into the atmosphere. As it rises it cools, and a process of condensation begins. That is when the vapour turns into drops, and millions of tiny drops form clouds. When the droplets of condensed water become heavy, they fall back to the earth as rain, or snow.

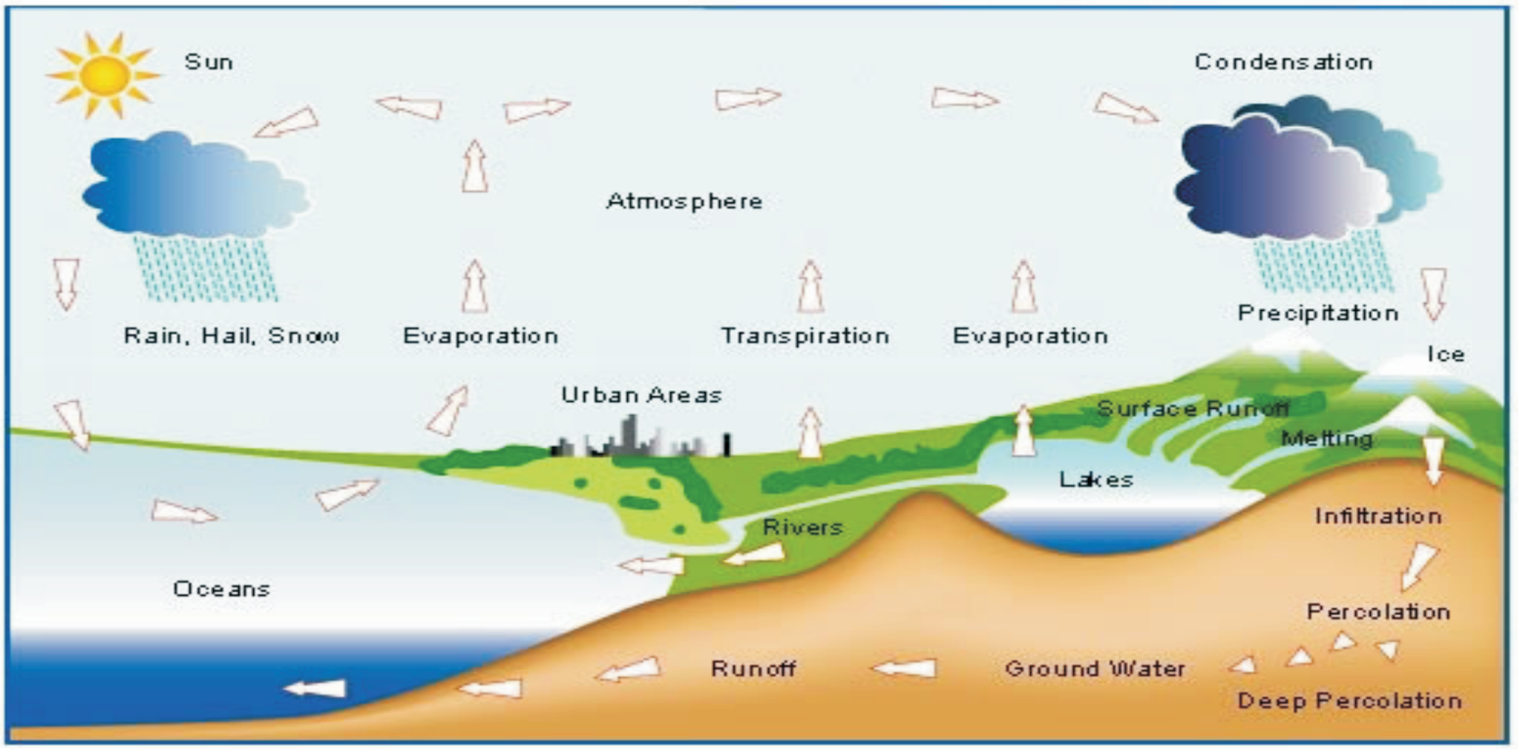
As the rain falls, three things happen. Some of the water evaporates immediately. Some of it seeps into the soil and moves underground where it is stored. The remaining part flows along the surface of the ground to fill rivers, and streams, and lakes and oceans. The water in rivers and streams also flows into the oceans.

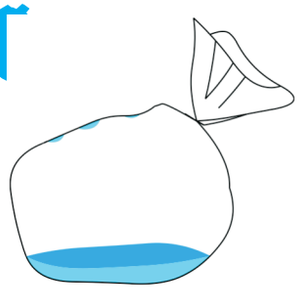
And some more water gets heated, and evaporates, and condenses, and falls back to Earth in a continuous cycle… That is why it is called Water Cycle.

Given below is a picture. Put in the arrows to show how I would move through the Water Cycle.

Illustration

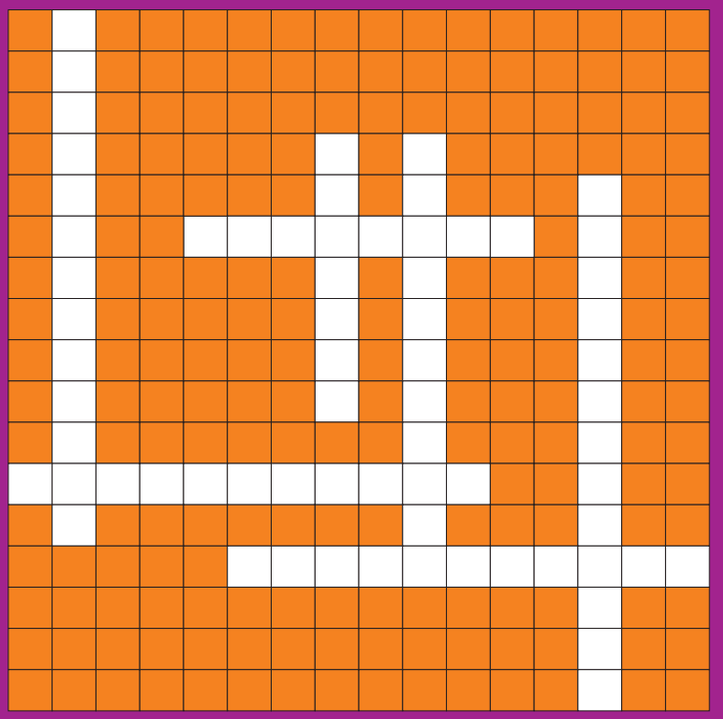
Water cycle





Pour a tablespoon of water in a small transparent plastic bag. Tie the mouth of the bag. Place the bag in direct sunlight. Wait a while. Then observe what happens in the bag. Do you see any drops of water on the top and sides of the bag? Where did they come from? Now place the bag in a cool place. Observe again what happens to the water drops.

FILL IN THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE WATER CYCLE CROSSWORD



Down

1. Water vapour that condenses into clouds and falls on the land and water in the form of rain, snow, hail or sleet
2. Fresh water from precipitation and melting ice that falls on a body of land that runs off into nearby streams, lakes and wetlands, rather than soaking into the land
3. Process by which liquid form of water is turned into a gas and returns to the atmosphere
4. The process by which water absorbed in root systems of plants moves up through the plant, passes through pores in the leaves, and evaporates into the atmosphere as water vapour

Across

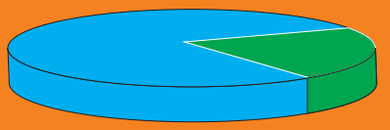
5. The fall of condensed moisture of the atmosphere and visible drops
6. Process of turning from gas or vapour to a liquid
7. Water that has been absorbed into the soil and is contained in cracks and crevices in rocks, sand and other porous materials

Think About This

Water constantly moves and changes form, but the amount on Earth does not increase or decrease. The water on Earth today is the same water that has been there since the planet formed. The glass of water you just had, could have been drinking water for a dinosaur!

If there is so much water on Earth, and if the water cycle is a continuous process, why do people worry about water?

Well, let's look again at all the water we have.



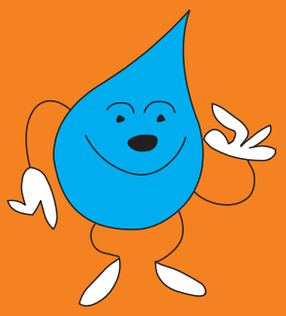
Do you remember where water is stored?

Take oceans: Ninety seven per cent of the Earth's water is in oceans.
Can the ocean water be directly used for daily needs? No. Why?
Because it is salty.

Do you remember what the solid state of water is called? It is ice.
Two per cent of the Earth's water is frozen as ice-caps and glaciers.
This cannot be easily used.

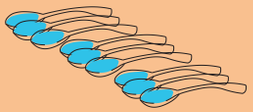
That leaves less than one per cent of water. Where is this water?
Yes, in lakes, ponds, rivers, and under the ground.
This is what we call freshwater.

And that is the water the entire earth has for its use.



Does this sound very confusing?

Let's make it easier by imagining that this 2200 ml of water represents the total water on earth. If we were to take 12 spoons of water out of this, the water that remains is equal to the salty water in the oceans and seas. Now look how the 12 spoons of fresh water are divided.



Nine Spoons Icecaps

Two Spoons Groundwater

½ Spoon Freshwater Lakes

One Drop Rivers

As I go around, I travel across different parts of the world. I see many different people and their way of living. No matter where I go, I know that everyone loves stories.

Let me tell you a story that I heard in South Asia.

Who is Greater?

Once upon a time there was perfect harmony in the forest. There dwelt together, in harmony, animals, birds and trees. Occasionally the Neem and the Banyan trees quarrelled. One morning as the forest awoke to a bright new day, two angry voices pierced the air. It was the Neem tree and the Banyan tree.

The baby squirrel who lived in the Banyan tree was the unintentional cause of this quarrel. In a playful mood it ran up the Neem tree. Seizing this opportunity, the Neem tree teased the Banyan tree. Calling aloud, it said: "Who wants to stay with someone with such entangled branches?" The Banyan tree retorted: "I am considered

The Neem tree said, "With due respect to you as an elder. But you should not take pride in your remarkable age. I have accomplished in 50 years what you took 170 years to do. Animals and birds live in my branches too, and they provide shade to man and beast alike. Most important, I serve the sick. My leaves and twigs are used for making herbal medicines. Although you are my senior, I am more useful than you". And so the trees went on. Each trying to make a longer list of how useful it was, for so many.

A frog from the nearby river was listening to their argument. Hopping out he bowed to both the trees. "What are you both quarrelling about? In your own capacities

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