

Water Cycle Study Guide

SOL 3.9

1. The **water cycle** is the movement of water from the ground to the air and back to the ground by **evaporation, condensation, and precipitation**.
2. The energy that drives this cycle comes from the **sun**.
3. During the water cycle, liquid water is heated and changed to a gas called "water vapor" (**evaporation**). The gas is cooled and changed back to a liquid and forms clouds (**condensation**). A liquid or a solid falls to the ground as **precipitation**. The four types of precipitation are rain, sleet, snow, or hail. Precipitation collects in rivers, oceans and other bodies of water. This is called **accumulation (or collection)**.
4. Our water supply on Earth is limited.
5. Pollution reduces the amount of usable water; therefore, the supply should be *conserved* carefully. How can you conserve (or save) water at home?
6. Water is essential for life on Earth.
7. There are major water sources for a community, including rivers, reservoirs, and wells. Groundwater is fresh water under the earth's surface.
8. Some possible sources of water pollution are runoff from over-fertilized lawns and fields, oil from parking lots, eroding soil, and animal waste.
9. Label the parts of the water cycle:

