

WATER CYCLE VOCABULARY

Evaporation-

water molecules in liquid water escape into the air as water vapor. This happens after the sun heats up the water

Condensation-

molecules of water vapor in the air become liquid water

Cloud Formation-

When warm, moist air rises and cools, condensing water vapor forms billions of little crystals on particles in the air that come together to form clouds.

Precipitation-

Any form of water that falls from clouds and reaches Earth's surface

Infiltration-

The downward movement of water through soil

Transpiration-

Plants use water in the soil then release it into the air through their leaves

Surface Runoff-

When the ground cannot hold anymore water, the excess flows downhill over the land

Groundwater-

Precipitation that seeps into the soil and fills up the spaces between rock, soil and sand

Absorption-

The removal of water from the soil by roots.

Water Cycle-

The continuous movement of water among Earth's atmosphere, oceans and land surface. It NEVER stops!

Watershed-

The land area drained by a river. One watershed is divided or separated from another by a ridge or a rise in the land. Streams and rivers that join another river become a larger watershed.