



# The Water Cycle

All life on earth depends on water....  
So where does it all come from and  
where does it go to?

The water cycle is the process of recycling the water on earth  
We can break it down into four main stages to form the  
cycle:

## Evaporation

The sun heats up the water from rivers, land and sea, turning it into water vapour (a gas) which rises into the air. Water can evaporate from plants, this is called transpiration.

## Condensation

The evaporated water, or water vapour, cools as it rises into cooler air and begins to form tiny water droplets once again. This is called condensation. As the water droplets gather, they form clouds.

## Precipitation

The clouds eventually become too heavy for the air to hold them any longer and the water droplets fall as rain, hail, sleet or snow back to the earth. This is called precipitation.

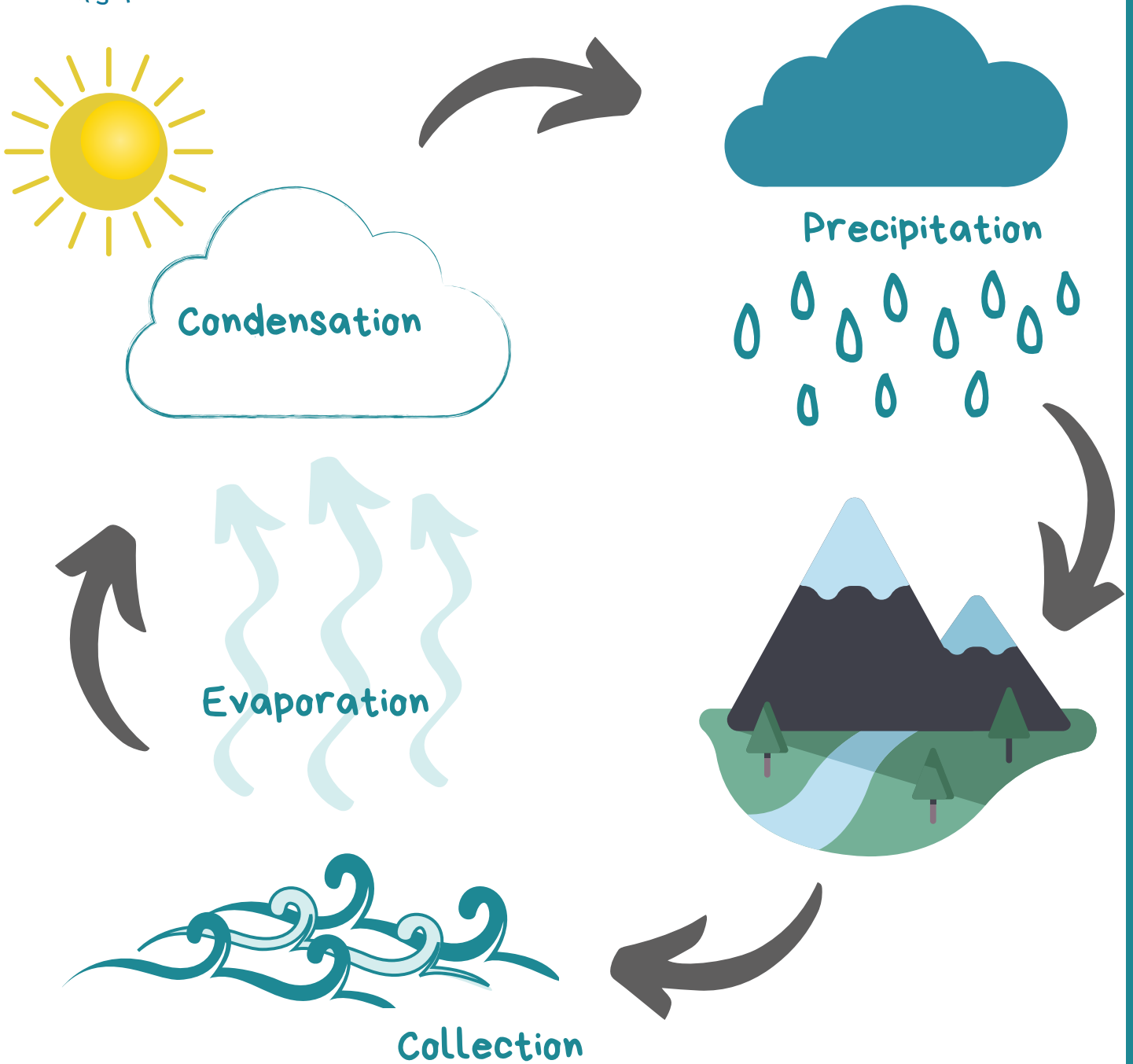
## Collection

Water collects in oceans, seas, rivers and lakes. Most of the precipitation will infiltrate (soak into) the ground and collect underground, some will 'run-off' the land into rivers and streams eventually getting to the sea.

Stay curious



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