



Maggie's Activity Pack

Name _____

Date _____

Around and Around It Goes!

What do you use everyday that can be traced back to the time of the dinosaurs? Sit down, put your feet up, and take a drink of water as you think – that's it! Water has been around this long! That's because water keeps cycling – around and around it goes. Water is one of nature's great recyclables!

The sun beats down on the Earth. It heats up oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams. Some of the water turns into vapor. This **vapor**, or steam, rises into the air. This is called **evaporation**. You may have seen evaporation in action. Leave a glass of water out for several days. The water level in the glass will go down, down, and down.

Fill two identical glasses with the same amount of water. Mark the water level on each glass. Put one glass in the sun. Leave the glass in a dark room. Do you see a difference in the amount of evaporation that takes place?

Try the same experiment using a pie plate and a tall flower vase. Measure one cup of water and pour in each. After one week, measure the water left in each container. Is there a difference? Why do you think this occurred?

Evaporation isn't the only way water gets into the air. Just like you, plants sweat! This is called **transpiration**. You may have seen little droplets of water on plant leaves. This water will turn into water vapor and return to the atmosphere. This is a way plants help the water cycle. Together, transpiration and evaporation return water to the air.

Have you ever been holding a cold glass of lemonade on a hot day? You may have noticed that the outside of the glass feels wet. You may even have seen droplets on your hand. How did this happen? Lemonade doesn't leak through glass! What you observed is the process called **condensation**. The vapor in the air turns into its liquid form when it gets cold. When the water vapor around you touched your cold lemonade,

Let's find out
how this cycle of
water keeps
spinning.

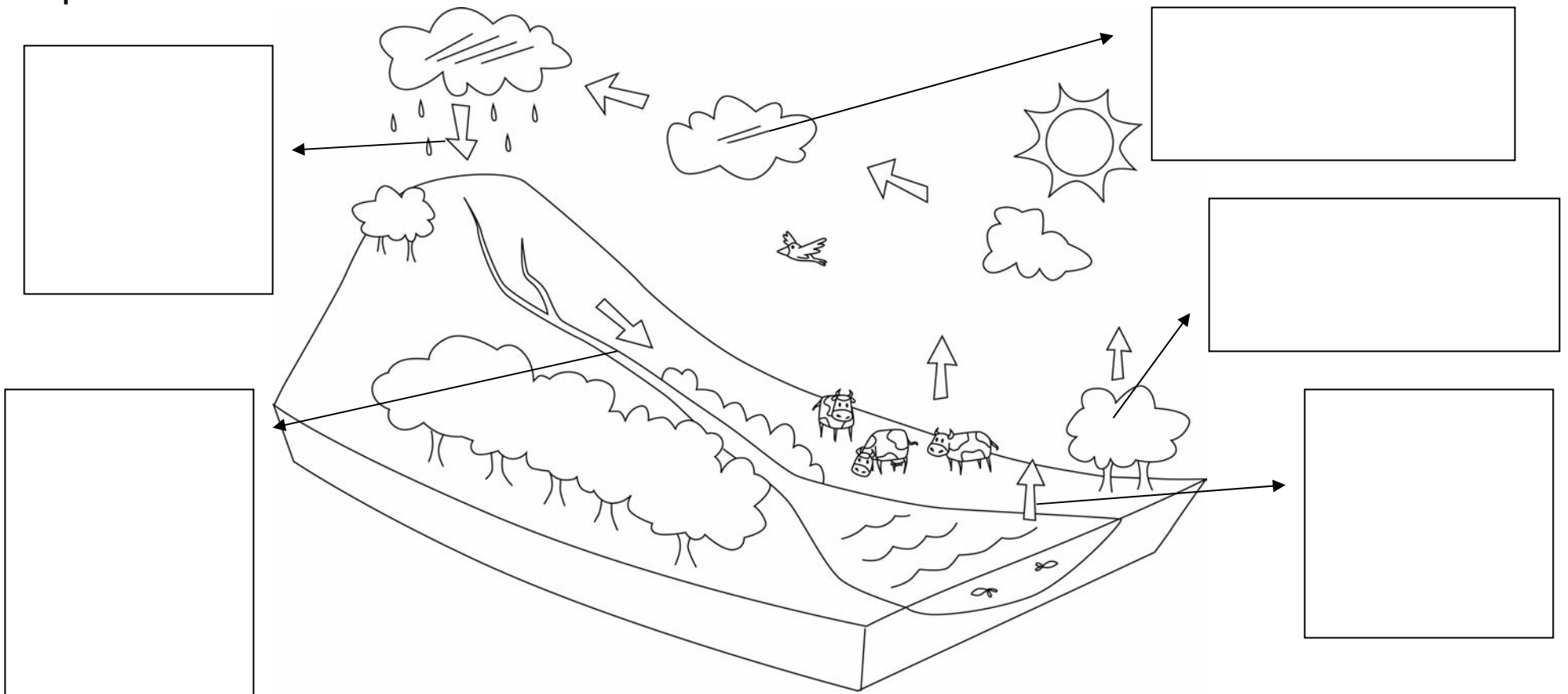


it became liquid water. You can see condensed water when you see **clouds**. They are water vapor that has become cold and has changed into liquid.

When clouds become heavy with water, then umbrellas or snow shovels appear. That's because **precipitation** occurs. Rain, hail, sleet, or snow falls to Earth.

This water hits the ground and soaks into the soil. It falls into oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams. **Collection** of water has taken place. Animals drink this water. Plants take it in. The sun warms the Earth. Plants transpire. Evaporation takes place. The water cycle starts again.

Look at this drawing. It shows the water cycle. In the box, label each part of the water cycle and tell what is taking place.



Dear Colleague,

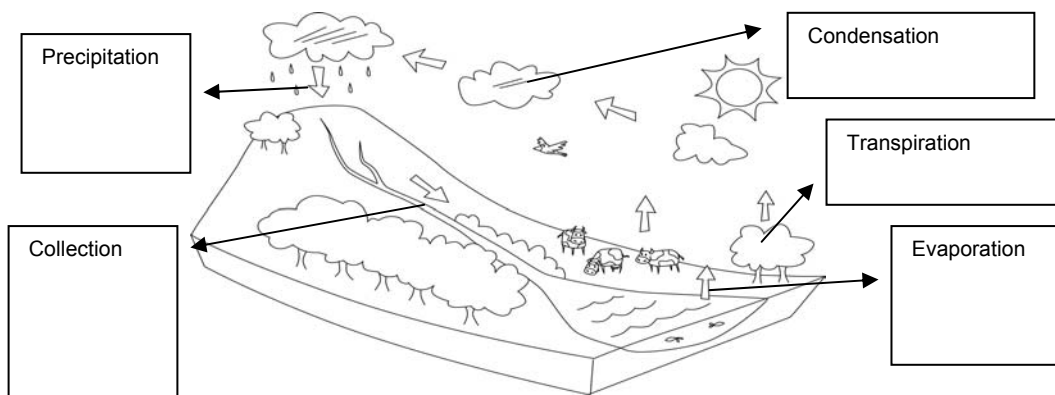
In traveling around, many of you have told me you study the water cycle. This activity is designed just for you! Hopefully, it will serve as a good introduction or review for your study. And, if this life-giving cycle, isn't part of your science curriculum, use the packet as a reading activity. It will give your students great practice in using information to label a diagram; a skill I know is important for students AND appears on many standardized tests.

I suggest you use the Multiple Intelligences and have students "act out" the water cycle, create 3-D structures from clay or other materials showing it, or even make up a song about it to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" (or any other song). Oh, the possibilities are endless. Let us know what you do!

I want to give an extra note of thanks to our talented artist, Lynn Nalty, who created this diagram. She really has a way of making even the most difficult concepts appealing to children. Take a look in our Bookstore for her darling letter magnets!

Happy teaching,
Kathy

Answers will vary as to explanations, but the diagram should be labeled as indicated below.



Goals:

Students will read an article about the components of the water cycle. They will use their knowledge to label a diagram and explain each part of this cycle. This activity is available on both the intermediate and primary level. A bonus activity for kindergarten and first graders is also available.