



USGS -The Water Cycle

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/watercyclesummary.html>

Directions: Complete this worksheet using the website.

1. The water cycle describes the existence and _____ of water, on, in, and above the Earth.
2. Earth's water is always in movement and is always changing _____, from liquid to vapor to ice and back again.
3. Most of Earth's water exists in _____.
4. The _____, which drives the water cycle, heats water in the oceans.
5. Rising air currents take the vapor up into the _____, along with water from _____, which is water transpired from plants and evaporated from the soil. The vapor rises into the air where cooler temperatures cause it to _____ into clouds.
6. Air currents move clouds around the globe, and cloud particles collide, grow, and fall out of the sky as _____.
7. Some precipitation falls as snow and can accumulate as _____, which can store frozen water for thousands of years.
8. Snowpacks in warmer climates often thaw and melt when spring arrives, and the melted water flows overland as _____.

← Fold along this line

Glue this side of the page
into your ISN on page _____
using 6 small dots of glue.

9. Most precipitation falls back into the oceans or onto land, where, due to gravity, the precipitation flows over the ground as _____.
10. A portion of runoff enters rivers in valleys in the landscape, with _____ moving water towards the oceans.
11. Runoff, and groundwater seepage, accumulate and are _____ in lakes.
12. Not all runoff flows into rivers, though. Much of it soaks into the ground as _____.
13. Some of the water infiltrates into the ground and replenishes _____, which store huge amounts of freshwater for long periods of time.
14. Over time, though, all of this water keeps moving, some to reenter the ocean, where the water cycle _____ again.

Water storage in oceans:

15. About ____% of the world's water supply is stored in oceans. (hint: Check out the graph.)
16. It is estimated that of the _____ cubic miles of the world's water supply, about _____mi³ is stored in oceans.
17. At a speed of 60 miles per day, the Gulf stream moves _____ times as much water as all the rivers on Earth.
18. Evaporation from oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers provide nearly _____ % of the moisture in our atmosphere.

19. 10 percent being contributed by plant _____.
20. _____ is necessary for evaporation to occur.
21. A state of _____ exists when these two process rates are equal, at which point, the relative humidity of the air is 100 percent.
22. _____, occurs when saturated air is cooled below the dew point.
23. The process of _____ removes heat from the environment, which is why water evaporating from your skin cools you.

Sublimation

24. _____ describes the process of snow and ice changing into water vapor without first melting into water.

Evapotranspiration

25. _____ the release of water from plant leaves.

Condensation

26. Water molecules will combine with tiny particles of _____, _____, and _____ in the air to form cloud droplets, which grow and develop into clouds.

Precipitation:

27. How do rain drops form?
28. (Look at the map) How much precipitation do we receive?

Water storage in ice and snow

29. Where is most of the Earth's ice mass located?

Surface Runoff

30. Much of the water in rivers comes directly from _____ from the land surface.

Stream Flow

31. _____ the amount of water flowing in a river.

32. What is a watershed?

Freshwater Storage

33. What is the definition of freshwater?

Infiltration

34. Where does groundwater come from?

Groundwater Storage

35. Groundwater is found in the _____ zone.

Spring

36. A spring is the result of an _____ being filled to the point that the water overflows onto the land surface.

Global Water Distribution

37. (Look at the graph.) How much water can we drink?

Draw a picture of the water cycle. Label all parts.