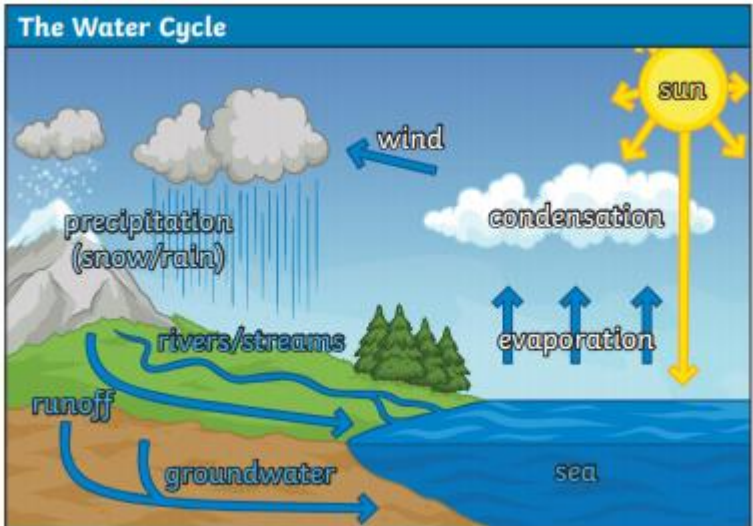


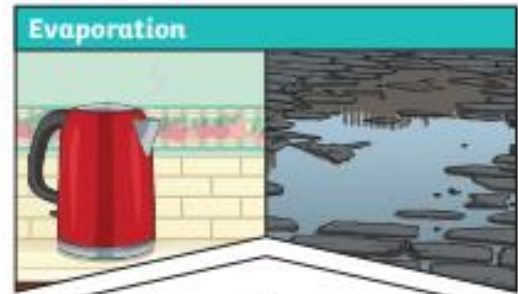
Clouds form when warm, moist air is cooled. When it is cooled, it condenses into tiny water droplets which appear as clouds.



Heat from the sun evaporates water, which rises, condenses in the cool air and then falls back down to earth.

1. Water from lakes, puddles, rivers and seas is **evaporated** by the sun's heat, turning it into **water vapour**.
2. This **water vapour** rises, then **cools down** to form water droplets in clouds (**condensation**).
3. When the droplets get too heavy, they **fall back** to the earth as rain, sleet, hail or snow (**precipitation**).

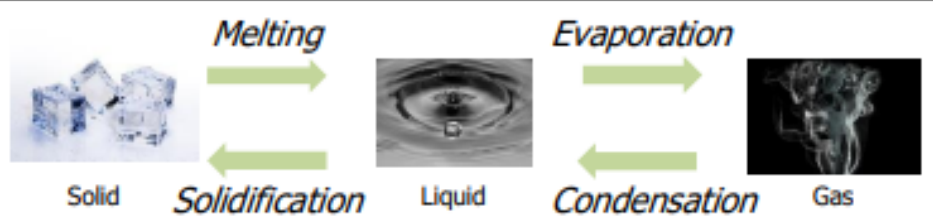
There are four main stages in the water cycle:  
**Evaporation** happens when warmth from the sun causes water (liquid) from the sea, lakes and rivers to rise into the air and turn to vapour (gas).  
**Condensation** happens when the water vapour cools and turns back into drops of water which form clouds in the sky.  
**Precipitation** is when the clouds get too heavy and water falls from the clouds in the form of rain, snow, sleet or hail.  
**Run off** happens when the majority of this water runs over the land and flows back into lakes and rivers or gets carried back to the sea.



**Evaporation** occurs when water turns into **water vapour**. This happens very quickly when the water is hot, like in a kettle, but it can also happen slowly, like a puddle **evaporating** in the warm air.



**Condensation** is when **water vapour** is cooled down and turns into water. You can see this when droplets of water form on a window. The **water vapour** in the air cools when it touches the cold surface.



**water vapour** | Water that is in the form of a gas.

**particles** | Everything is made up of matter. **Particles** are tiny bits of matter.