



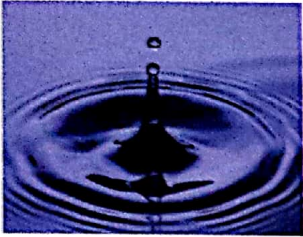
THE WATER CYCLE



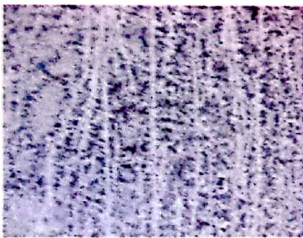
AUDIO

THE WORDS you need

Look and tick.



- a. droplet
- b. cloud



- a. sleet
- b. rain



- a. ground
- b. water



- a. pavement
- b. ice-cap

READ and listen

The **water cycle** refers to the continuous flow of water on our planet, at ground level, above ground level and below ground level. This process helps to keep vegetation hydrated, to renew the water in oceans, seas and waterways and it makes it rain too.

So what happens before it rains? First, the energy from the Sun heats the surface of the Earth; water from oceans, seas and other waterways evaporates; this warm moist air from the **evaporation** process goes up; the water vapour then becomes water droplets again in the **condensation** process and we get clouds; the water droplets then become big and heavy and begin to fall out of the sky as rain drops. Other weather conditions and temperatures influence the kind of **precipitation**: it can be rain, snow or sleet.

Some of that precipitation goes on people's heads or umbrellas but what happens to the water then? Well, an impermeable surface like a pavement or road means we have **surface run-off** and the water goes back into the cycle. In woods or fields, for example, there is **through flow** and the water infiltrates the ground. Some water goes deep underground. This water **percolates** the ground and re-enters the cycle via a river or sea.

The water cycle is constant because we have enormous **stores** of water in the ocean, ice-caps, land and the atmosphere.

real LIFE

In the western world we all waste water. Think about this morning when you were getting ready for school.... Did you leave the water tap on while you were cleaning your teeth? Did you leave it on while you were washing your face? Water is a precious commodity. Some people in third-world countries walk for kilometres every day to find a source of fresh, clean water. They use that water with care. Let's take care of our water. Let's keep the water stores free from pollution and use our water responsibly.