

Geography

The Water Cycle

Year 4

Summer

## Statutory Requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

**Describe** and understand key aspects of physical geography such as the water cycle.

## Diagrams and Symbols



## Key Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
<b>Water cycle</b>	A physical process that happens on the surface of the Earth and in the Earth's atmosphere.
<b>Atmosphere</b>	The gases that surround a planet
<b>Continuous</b>	Happening all of the time without any breaks
<b>Precipitation</b>	Rain, snow, sleet or hail falling from clouds
<b>Cumulonimbus</b>	Thunder clouds
<b>Stratus</b>	Featureless rain clouds in layers
<b>Cumulus</b>	Small puffy clouds
<b>Cirrus</b>	Thin wispy clouds
<b>Evaporation</b>	The process of water turning into a vapour, caused by the heat of the sun.
<b>Condensation</b>	As vapour rises, it cools and condenses from a vapour to a liquid to form clouds.
<b>Run off</b>	Water that travels on the surface of the ground and collects in bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, oceans and seas.
<b>Percolation</b>	When water soaks into the ground.

## Key Knowledge

What is the water cycle process?

1. Water from oceans, seas, rivers and lakes evaporates and rises into the air as a vapour. It is caused by the heat and sun.
2. As the vapour rises, it cools and condenses from a vapour to a liquid to form clouds.
3. As the clouds become heavy, precipitation occurs. This is the process of liquid falling from the clouds.
4. This creates run-off. The water travels into bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, oceans, seas.
5. Through a process called percolation, the water is soaked into the ground. The water flows downwards under the layers of the soil. This ends the water cycle, which then starts again.

What is a cloud?

A cloud is a **large group of tiny water droplets** that we can see in the air. Clouds are formed when water on Earth **evaporates** into the sky and **condenses** high up in the **cooler air**. Only the lower clouds give precipitation; the cumulonimbus cloud creates thunder and lightning storms.