

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

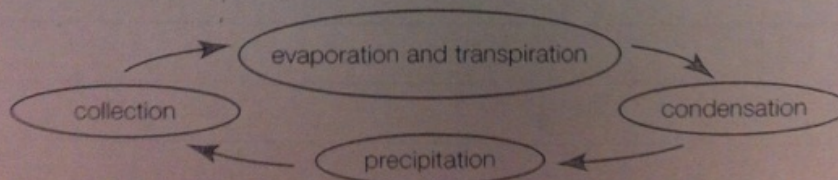
The Water Cycle

The water you use every day is quite old, since that water has been around as long as the planet Earth itself. Our planet has a certain amount of water, which keeps moving around in a process called the water cycle. The water cycle has four main stages: evaporation and transpiration, condensation, precipitation, and collection. You can see the four stages of the water cycle in the diagram below.

Evaporation takes place when the sun heats the water in oceans, rivers, and lakes, turning the water into water vapor, which enters the air. If you have seen steam rising from a bath or pond, you have seen evaporation happen. Water also moves into the air through transpiration, which happens when plants give off water from their leaves.

Evaporation and transpiration are followed by condensation. In the condensation stage, water vapor in the air gets colder and becomes liquid water, which creates clouds. After a while, the clouds become so heavy with water that the air cannot hold any more water. At that point the next phase, called precipitation, occurs. Precipitation is the same thing as raining, snowing, sleet, or hailing. In this stage, water goes back to the Earth, with the rain, sleet, hail, or snow falling on land and bodies of water.

After the water falls back to the Earth, the phase called collection begins. The Earth collects the water, which travels over the planet, flowing in rivers to the ocean and moving as groundwater underneath the land. The sun continues to shine on bodies of water such as oceans, turning the water into vapor and beginning the water cycle again.



Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 Which of the following best describes the author's purpose?

- A to persuade people to collect rainwater
- B to urge people to limit water usage
- C to show how evaporation has changed over time
- D to describe the stages of the water cycle

2 Which of the following best describes the author's tone in the selection?

- F scientific
- G amusing
- H bossy
- J angry

3 According to the diagram, which stage follows condensation?

- A transpiration
- B collection
- C evaporation
- D precipitation

4 Why did the author most likely include the diagram?

- F to show the circle of the water cycle
- G to show differences among types of precipitation
- H to explain how water collects in clouds
- J to explain how the cycle affects the level of lakes and rivers

5 If you had the same reason for writing as the author, what other information might you include? Explain your answer.
