**The Water Cycle**

The **water cycle** describes the continuous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of water on, above, and below the surface of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Also called the **hydrologic** cycle.

The **amount** of water on Earth remains **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (the same), but it is continually **changing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** through each step.

Actually, there is much more water being **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in the cycle than is moving through the cycle.

The water \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has no beginning or end.

Water naturally exists on Earth in all **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** states:

1. solid (example - hail, snow, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

2. liquid (example - rain, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, oceans)

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (example - in the air)

The basic steps:

**Condensation** - the changing of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a liquid (water vapor to water)

As water vapor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and cools, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ form.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ become visible when the water \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ combine with other water molecules and tiny particles form cloud droplets.

**Precipitation** - is the process by which water molecules \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to form drops heavy enough to fall to the Earth’s surface.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pulls the water droplets to Earth.

**Deposition** - is a type of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in which water vapor in the clouds changes directly to a solid

Example – snow, sleet, hail, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - occurs when precipitation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the shallow soil layer, then moves through the soil and subsurface.

**Surface runoff** - occurs when no more water can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into the ground, and gravity pulls it downhill.

Water flows over land and forms \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Rivers usually flow into the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the water \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ continues from there.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** are similar in that they are both processes in which water is changed into water vapor.

**Evaporation** - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ water from lakes, oceans, or other bodies of water is heated (by the sun) until it turns to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (water vapor) and is released to the atmosphere.

**Transpiration** - is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by which water is carried through plants, from roots through the stems and to the leaves, where it changes to water vapor and is released to the atmosphere.

This water vapor is one of the products of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.