Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Answer Key: A Drop’s Great Escape: The Kindergarten Water Cycle Quest

Thirteen miles of ocean depth meet the snowy mountain peaks in 10 challenges requiring deep analysis of how water moves and changes form.

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1. Imagine you are a tiny drop of water in the salty Indian Ocean. The sun makes you very hot. What is your clever plan to reach the sky?

Answer: B) Turn into invisible gas and float up

When the sun warms ocean water, it turns into water vapor (gas) and rises through evaporation.

2. If a cloud gets too heavy with water over a cold mountain, it will always drop liquid rain instead of snow.

Answer: B) False

False. Temperature determines the form of precipitation; if it is cold enough, the water will fall as snow or ice.

3. Look at a map of our world. Most of the Earth is covered by blue water. This water is mostly _____.

Answer: C) Salty ocean water

Oceans cover about 71% of Earth's surface and are characterized by their saltiness.

4. You see 'breath clouds' when you exhale on a cold morning. Which part of the water cycle is this most like?

Answer: D) Steam cooling down to form a cloud

This represents condensation, where warm water vapor cools down to form visible droplets, just like clouds.

5. The water you drank today could be the same water a dinosaur drank millions of years ago.

Answer: A) True

True. The water cycle is a continuous loop that recycles the same water on Earth over and over again.

6. A river flows very fast down a hill after a storm. It is trying to find its way back to _____.

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Answer: C) The ocean

Runoff from rain and snow eventually flows into rivers that lead back to the oceans.

7. If there were no sun at all, what would happen to the water cycle?

Answer: B) The water would stop moving up to the sky

The sun provides the energy (heat) needed for evaporation to occur.

8. When water vapor high in the sky gets cold and bunches together, it creates _____.

Answer: A) Clouds

Condensation is the process where water vapor cools and forms clouds.

9. Ocean water is exactly the same as the water in a swimming pool.

Answer: B) False

False. Ocean water contains high levels of salt (salinity), while swimming pools are usually treated fresh water.

10. Why does rain fall DOWN instead of floating UP after it forms in a cloud?

Answer: A) The drops become too heavy for the air to hold

When water droplets in clouds gather and become heavy enough (precipitation), gravity pulls them down to Earth.