

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Sun-Powered Seas: A 3rd Grade Water Cycle Expedition

How does a drop of ocean water reach the top of a mountain? Trace the journey from salty waves to fluffy clouds and back again.

1. Most of the water on our planet is found in the oceans. Is this water safe for humans to drink right away?

Answer: B) No, it is salty water.

Oceans contain salt water, which is different from the fresh water we find in lakes or drink from our taps.

2. The sun provides the energy that makes the water cycle move.

Answer: A) True

The sun's heat warms up the water, causing it to evaporate and start its journey through the cycle.

3. When the sun warms up the ocean, the water turns into invisible gas called ____.

Answer: C) Water vapor

Evaporation is the process where liquid water turns into water vapor, which is a gas.

4. What happens high in the sky to help form a cloud?

Answer: A) Water vapor cools down and turns back into tiny liquid drops.

This cooling process is called condensation. It is how clouds are made!

5. Rain, snow, and hail are all types of 'precipitation.'

Answer: A) True

Precipitation is any form of water that falls from the sky to the Earth's surface.

6. After it rains, water that flows over the ground and back into streams or the ocean is called ____.

Answer: B) Runoff

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Runoff is the term for water that 'runs off' the land into bodies of water.

7. Why don't the oceans ever dry up even though the sun is always shining on them?

Answer: B) The water cycle keeps putting water back into the ocean.

The water cycle is a continuous loop. Water leaves as vapor but eventually returns as rain and runoff.

8. The water cycle has a specific starting point and an ending point.

Answer: B) False

The water cycle is a circle (or cycle), meaning it goes around and around forever without a start or end.

9. Imagine you see fog on a bathroom mirror after a hot shower. Which part of the water cycle is this most like?

Answer: D) Condensation

When warm steam touches the cool mirror, it turns back into liquid water drops, just like cloud formation.

10. Oceans cover about ___ of the Earth's surface.

Answer: C) Nearly three quarters (3/4)

About 71% of Earth is covered by oceans, which is close to three quarters of the planet.