Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Answer Key: Ocean Water Cycle Detective Quest for 2nd Grade

Junior hydrologists analyze how sunshine powers the global water engine and track a single drop's journey from the deep sea to the sky.

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1. Imagine you are a tiny salt crystal in the ocean. If the sun warms the water around you, what happens to your water droplet home?

Answer: B) It turns into invisible gas and rises up

Evaporation happens when the sun heats up liquid water, turning it into water vapor (gas) that rises into the air.

2. True or False: Most of the water that falls as rain on Earth originally evaporated from our salty oceans.

Answer: A) True

Because oceans cover most of the Earth, they are the biggest source of water for the water cycle.

3. High in the sky, cooled-down water vapor huddles together with dust to form _____, which is called condensation.

Answer: B) clouds

Condensation is the process where gas turns back into liquid droplets, creating the clouds we see.

4. A scientist finds that the water in the Indian Ocean is moving toward the shore like a giant under-water river. This is called:

Answer: A) An ocean current

Ocean currents are like rivers of water moving through the ocean, helping to move heat and nutrients around the world.

5. When a cloud gets too heavy and full of water, it releases _____ back down to the Earth's surface.

Answer: C) precipitation

Precipitation is the scientific name for water falling from the sky as rain, snow, sleet, or hail.

6. True or False: If the sun stopped shining, the water cycle would keep moving exactly the same way.

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Answer: B) False

The sun is the 'engine' of the water cycle; its energy is needed to evaporate water from the oceans.

7. If you are designing a map of the water cycle, why should you draw arrows pointing from the mountains back to the ocean?

Answer: B) To show water runoff flowing into the sea

Runoff is water from rain or melted snow that flows over the ground and eventually returns to the ocean.

8. Oceans are _____ than lakes because they contain a lot of dissolved minerals and salts.

Answer: B) saltier

High salinity (saltiness) is a key property that makes ocean water different from the fresh water in most lakes.

9. True or False: When ocean water evaporates, the salt stays behind in the ocean.

Answer: A) True

Only the water turns into gas during evaporation; the salt remains in the liquid ocean, which is why rain is not salty.

10. Which of these best describes the 'Water Cycle'?

Answer: B) A never-ending loop of water moving around Earth

The water cycle is a continuous system where water moves between the ocean, air, and land over and over again.