

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Launch Your Ocean Adventurer Skills! 2nd Grade Water Cycle Challenge

Nail 10 tricky questions by tracing how raindrops travel from salty waves to fluffy clouds and back to the land.

1. Imagine a tiny puddle on a sidewalk after a storm. On a sunny day, the puddle disappears. Where did the water go?

Answer: B) It evaporated into invisible gas

Evaporation happens when liquid water is heated by the sun and turns into water vapor, an invisible gas in the air.

2. When water vapor in the sky gets cold, it huddles together to form clouds. This process is called _____.

Answer: C) Condensation

Condensation occurs when water vapor cools down and changes back into tiny liquid droplets, creating clouds.

3. The water in the deep blue ocean is exactly the same as the water you drink from the kitchen sink.

Answer: B) False

Ocean water is saltwater, which is very salty, while the water we drink is freshwater.

4. What is the main engine that keeps the water cycle moving all over the Earth?

Answer: C) The Sun

The Sun provides the energy (heat) needed for water to evaporate and start its journey through the cycle.

5. Rain, snow, and hail are all different types of _____.

Answer: A) Precipitation

Precipitation is any form of water—liquid or solid—that falls from the atmosphere to the Earth's surface.

6. Most of the water on our planet is found in the oceans.

Answer: A) True

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About 97% of Earth's water is in the oceans, making them the biggest part of the water cycle.

7. When rain falls on a mountain and flows down into a stream, what is that movement called?

Answer: B) Runoff

Runoff is water that 'runs off' the land and flows into rivers, lakes, and eventually the ocean.

8. Small plants give off water vapor through their leaves. This special kind of evaporation is called _____.

Answer: D) Transpiration

Transpiration is how plants release water vapor into the air, contributing to the water cycle.

9. The water cycle has a beginning and an end, like a race track.

Answer: B) False

The water cycle is a continuous loop with no beginning or end; water keeps moving through the stages forever.

10. If you were a drop of water in the ocean, which path would you most likely follow next?

Answer: B) Evaporate into the air

From the surface of the ocean, the next major step in the cycle is often evaporation caused by heat from the sun.