Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Answer Key: Operation Cloud-Maker: A Pre-K Water Cycle Mystery

Preschool investigators track hidden ocean water as it transforms into fluffy clouds and raindrops through hands-on system modeling.

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1. If you are a tiny drop of ocean water and the sun warms you up, what is your next big move in the sky?

Answer: A) I will turn into invisible mist and fly up high.

This introduces the concept of evaporation by imagining the water droplet's change of state when heated by the sun.

2. When lots of tiny water friends gather together in the cold air, they huddle up to create a big, white, fluffy _____.

Answer: A) Cloud

This assesses the understanding of condensation as the stage where water vapor forms visible clouds.

3. The water you splash in at the beach today could have been the same water a dinosaur drank a long time ago.

Answer: A) True

This teaches the concept of the water cycle as a continuous, closed system where Earth's water is recycled over millions of years.

4. Imagine a cloud gets too heavy and full of water. What does the cloud do to feel light again?

Answer: B) It lets the water fall down as rain or snow.

This requires students to synthesize the cause of precipitation: gravity pulling water down when clouds become saturated.

5. After the rain falls on a mountain, it likes to travel back home to the big, salty _____.

Answer: B) Ocean

This identifies the ocean as the primary collection point and the 'end/beginning' of the water cycle loop.

6. The sun is the 'boss' of the water cycle because its heat makes the water move.

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Answer: A) True

This emphasizes the sun’s role as the energy source driving the entire geochemical cycle.

7. If the ocean water stopped moving up to the sky, what would happen to the plants in the forest?

Answer: C) They would get thirsty because it wouldn't rain.

This advanced prompt requires predicting the biological impact of breaking the water cycle connection between oceans and land.

8. When water vapor touches a cold window and turns into water drops, this is called _____.

Answer: A) Condensation

Even for Pre-K, identifying the scientific term through everyday examples (foggy windows) builds vocabulary and scaffolds higher-level science thinking.

9. The ocean is very salty! But when the sun turns ocean water into mist, what happens to the salt?

Answer: A) The salt stays behind in the ocean.

This targets a complex concept: only water evaporates, leaving solutes like salt behind, which explains why rain is fresh water.

10. The water cycle never stops; it keeps going round and round like a wheel.

Answer: A) True

This summarizes the core idea of a 'cycle'—a process that repeats without a finish line.