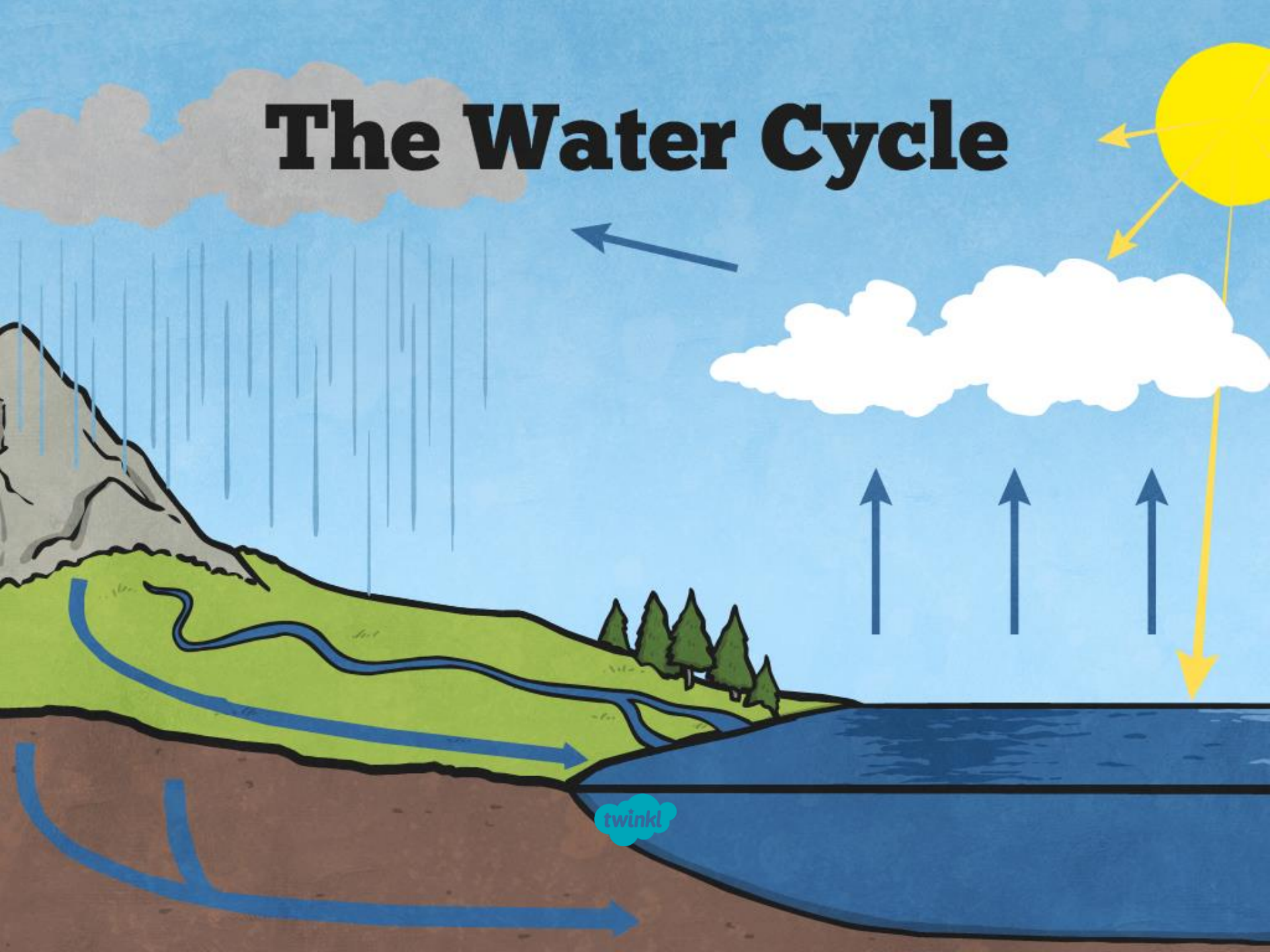
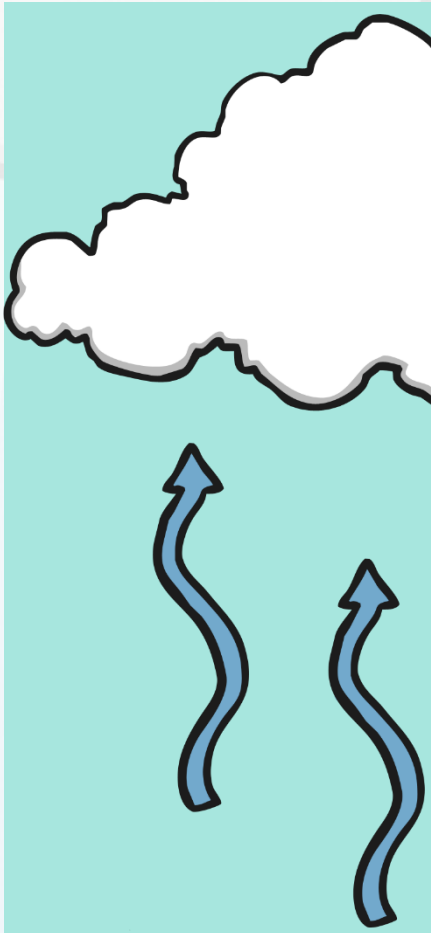


The Water Cycle



What Is the Water Cycle?



More than three quarters of the Earth's surface is water.

Some of this water evaporates in the heat of the Sun.

When the water has evaporated, it is in the form of water vapour.

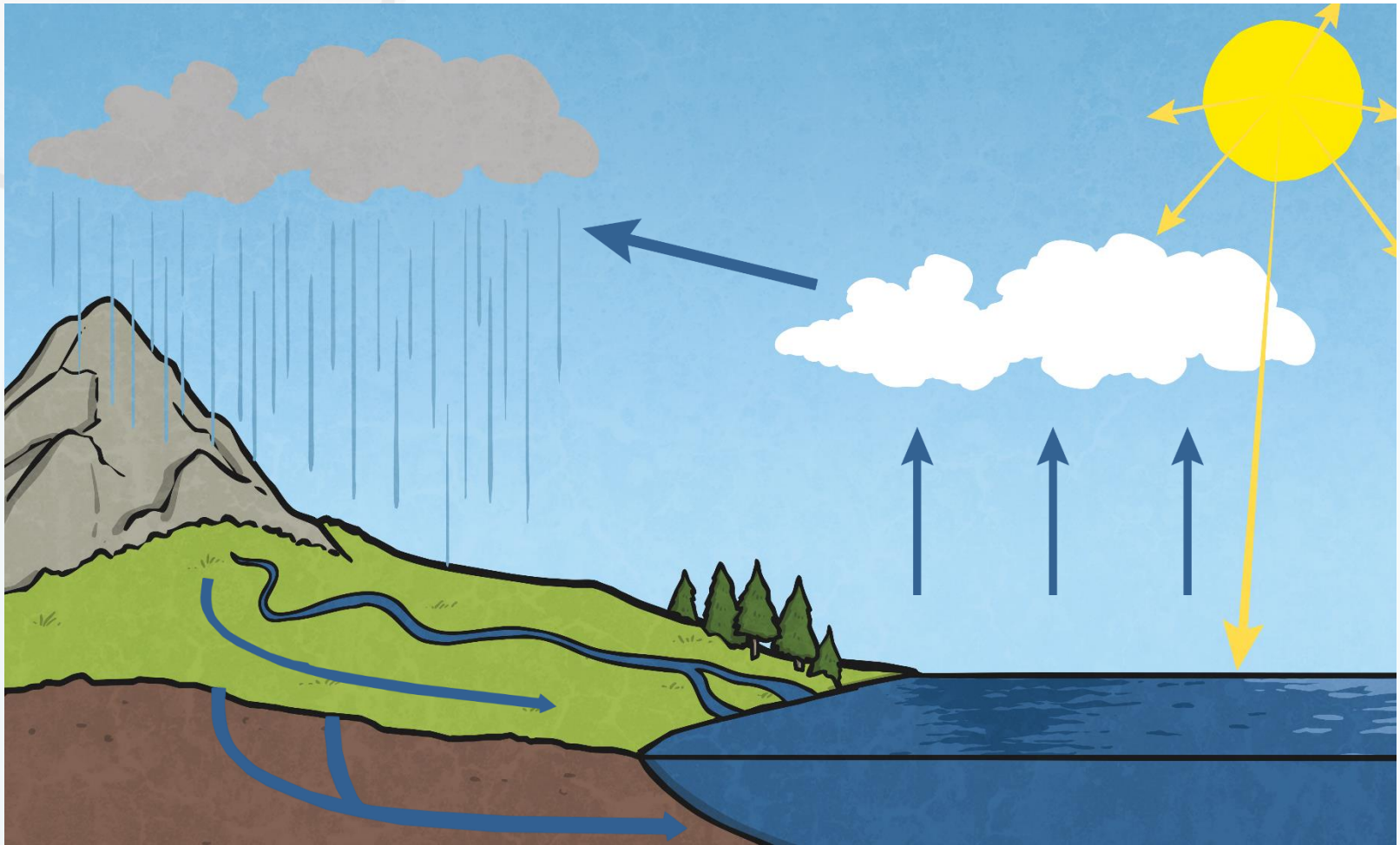
Clouds are made from water vapour that has condensed to form tiny water droplets.

When the water droplets get too big, they fall from the clouds.

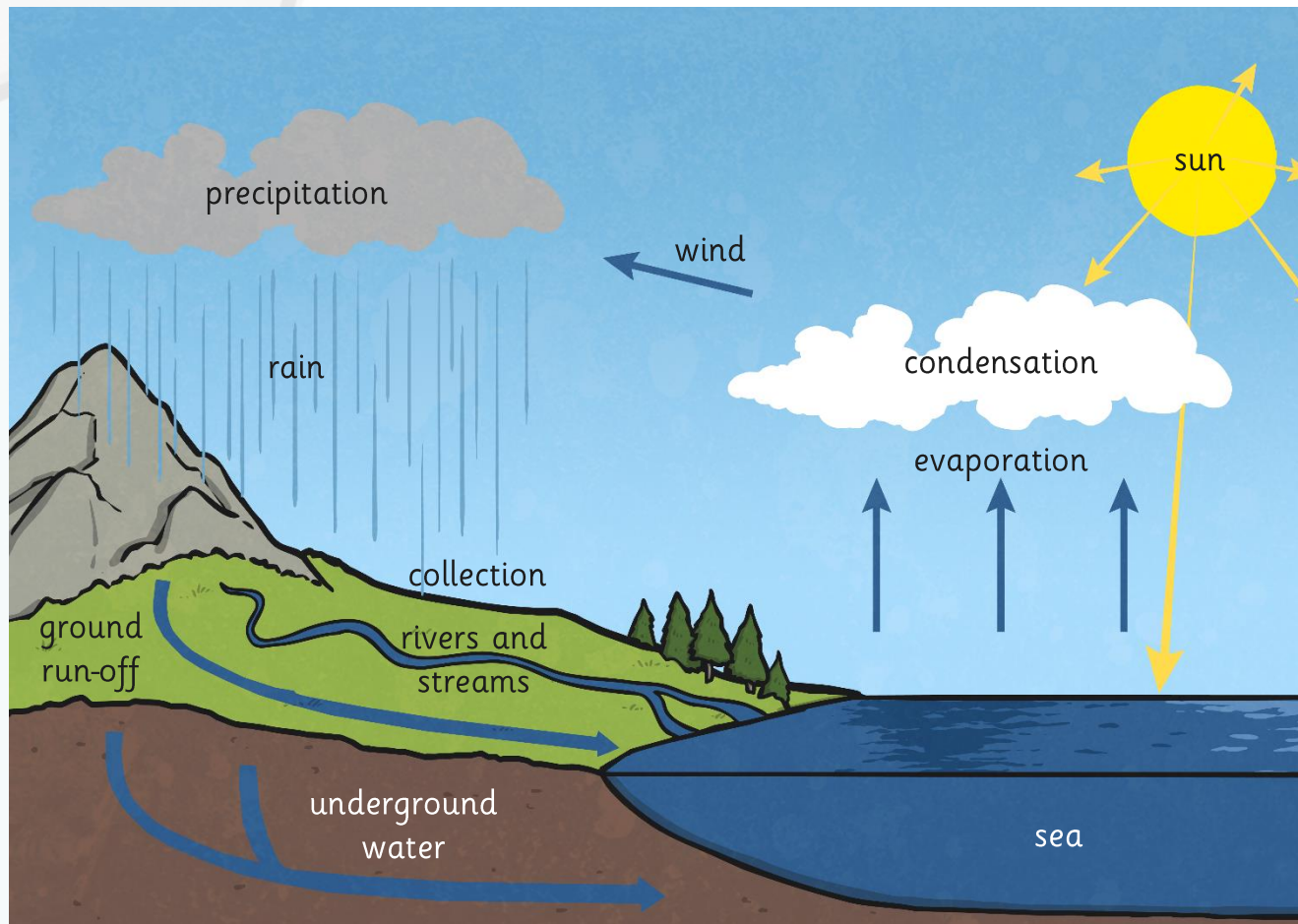
The water droplets can fall as rain, hail or snow.

Three hundred millions litres of water falls on dry land each day.

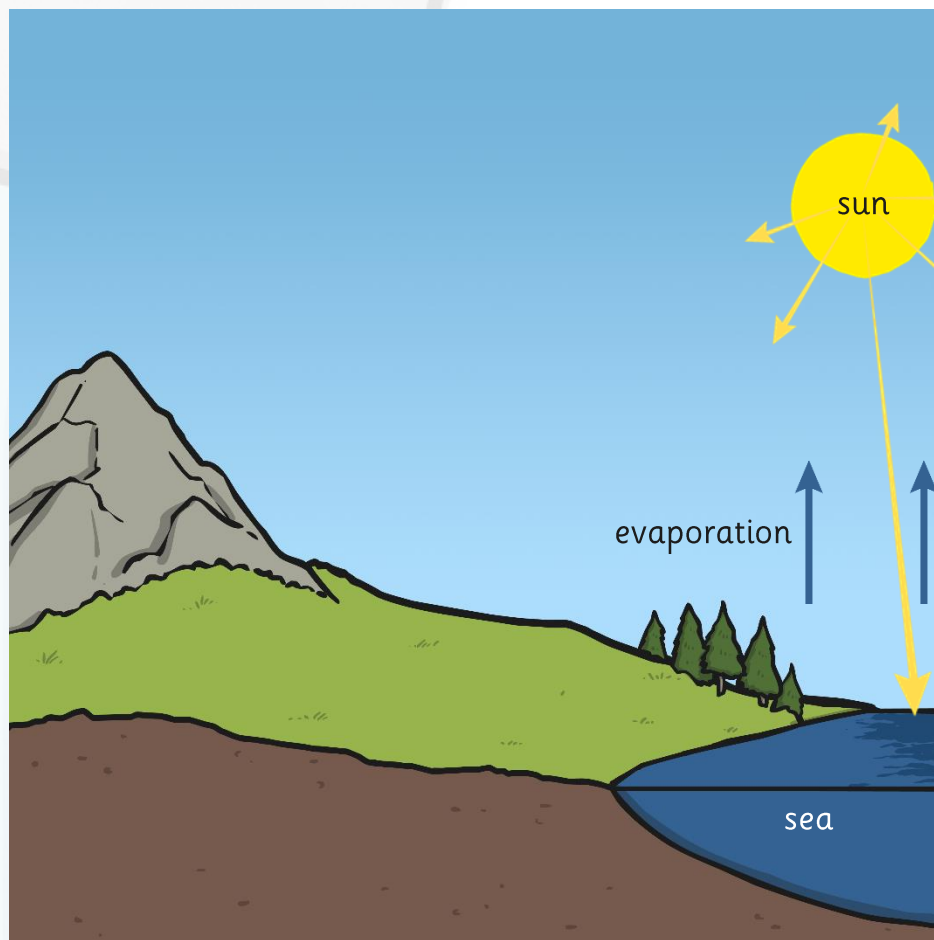
What Is the Water Cycle?



The Stages of the Water Cycle



The Stages of the Water Cycle



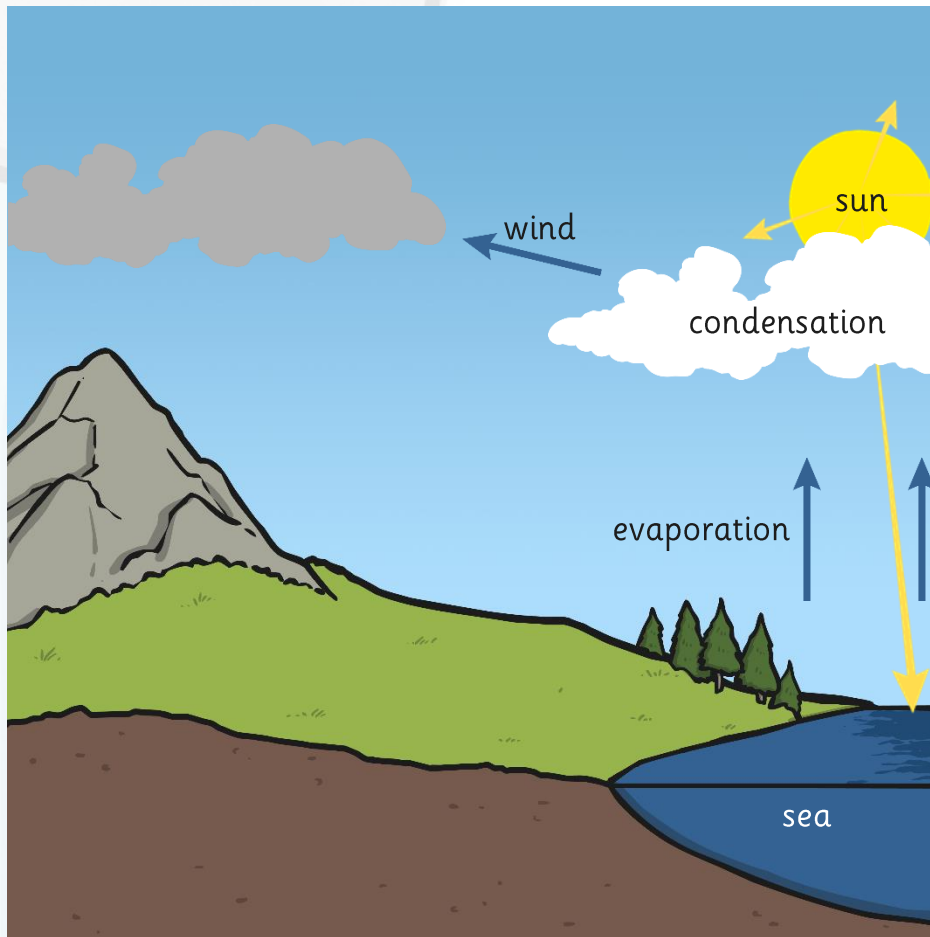
Evaporation

Heat from the Sun causes water to evaporate from seas, lakes, rivers and streams. Water also evaporates from puddles and ponds.

This evaporation happens even on cloudy or cold days.

The liquid water turns into water vapour when it has evaporated.

The Stages of the Water Cycle



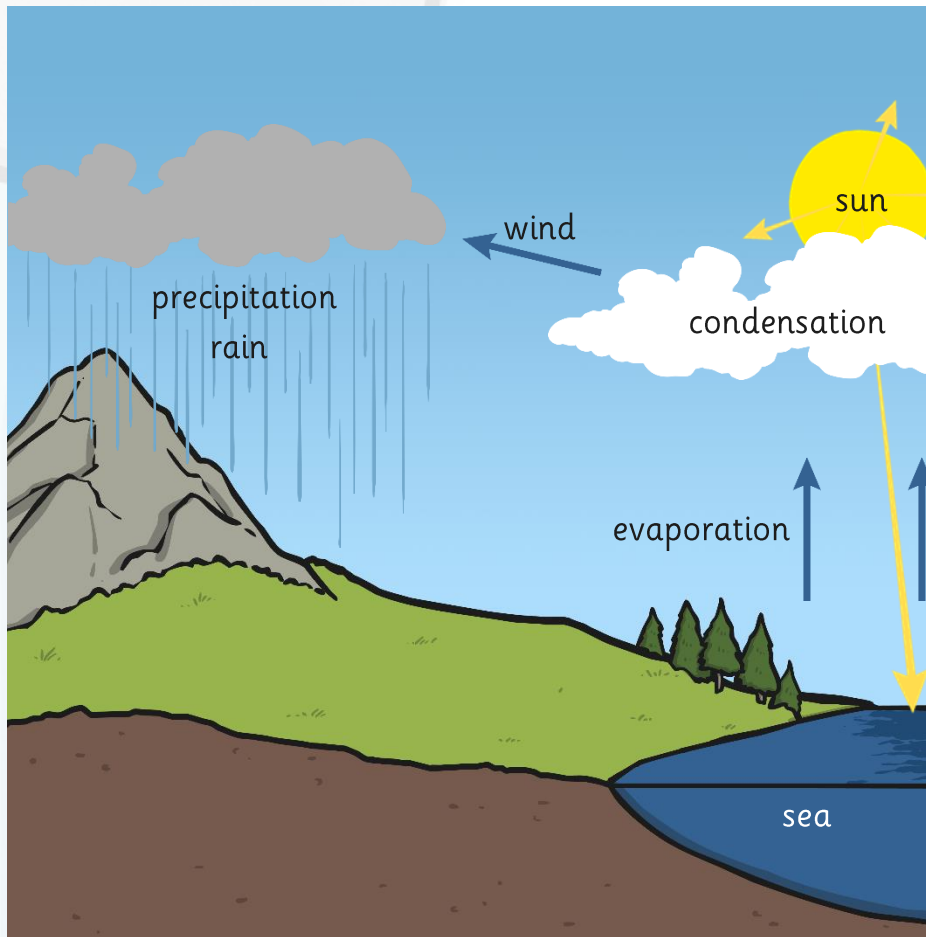
Condensation

The water vapour in the air rises, and as it does so, it cools down.

Eventually, it cools enough for the water vapour to condense and form small droplets of water.

The droplets of water clump together to form clouds.

The Stages of the Water Cycle



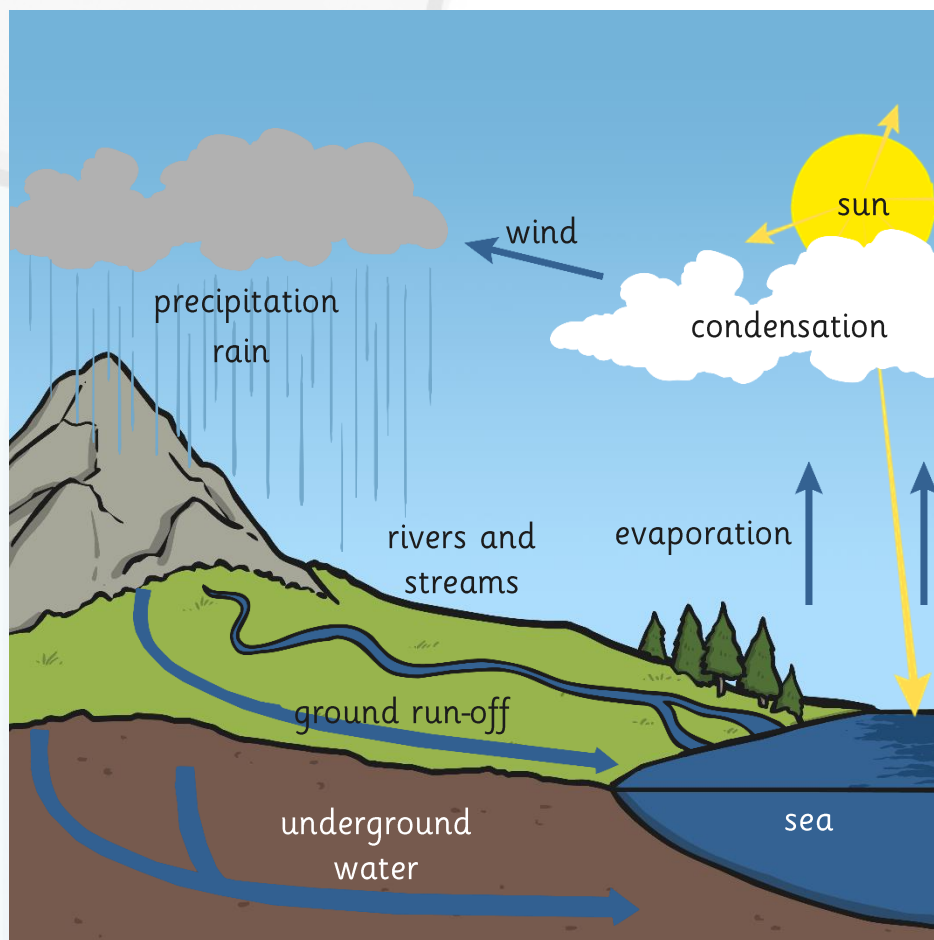
Precipitation

As more water vapour condenses, more water droplets are formed in the clouds.

Eventually, the water droplets are large enough and heavy enough to fall back to the surface of the Earth.

These droplets of water fall from the clouds in the form of rain, sleet, hail or snow.

The Stages of the Water Cycle



Collection

When water falls back to Earth as precipitation, the water may fall on oceans, lakes, rivers or on the ground.

Water that falls on the ground is either absorbed into the soil, and is used as drinking water for animals and plants, or it runs over the ground and collects in the oceans, lakes and rivers.

This water is then evaporated and the cycle starts all over again!

This is Mrs Catalano, isn't she beautiful? Mrs Catalano has some cups left over from the fizzy drinks she made. She is using one of these to make a mini water world! Follow the instructions on your instruction sheet to make your own mini water world, just like Mrs Catalano!

