

Activity

Studying the Water Cycle

Falling drops of rain, the formation of clouds, moving water in a stream, and evaporation are parts of a series of events that occur over and over in an endless cycle. There are many cycles in nature that affect our lives; however, these particular events are all parts of the water cycle.

Process	Description
Evaporation ↑	Process by which <u>liquid water</u> changes to <u>water vapor</u> - <i>from lakes, rivers, ocean</i>
Transpiration ↑	Process by which water evaporates from the <u>leaves</u> of plants
Condensation	Process by which <u>water vapor</u> changes to <u>liquid water</u> (<i>cloud formation</i>)
<i>Surface</i> Runoff	Process by which water <u>flows over</u> the surface of the ground
Precipitation ↓	Process by which water, in <u>any form</u> , <u>falls from the</u> atmosphere to the Earth's surface (<i>rain, sleet, snow, hail</i>)

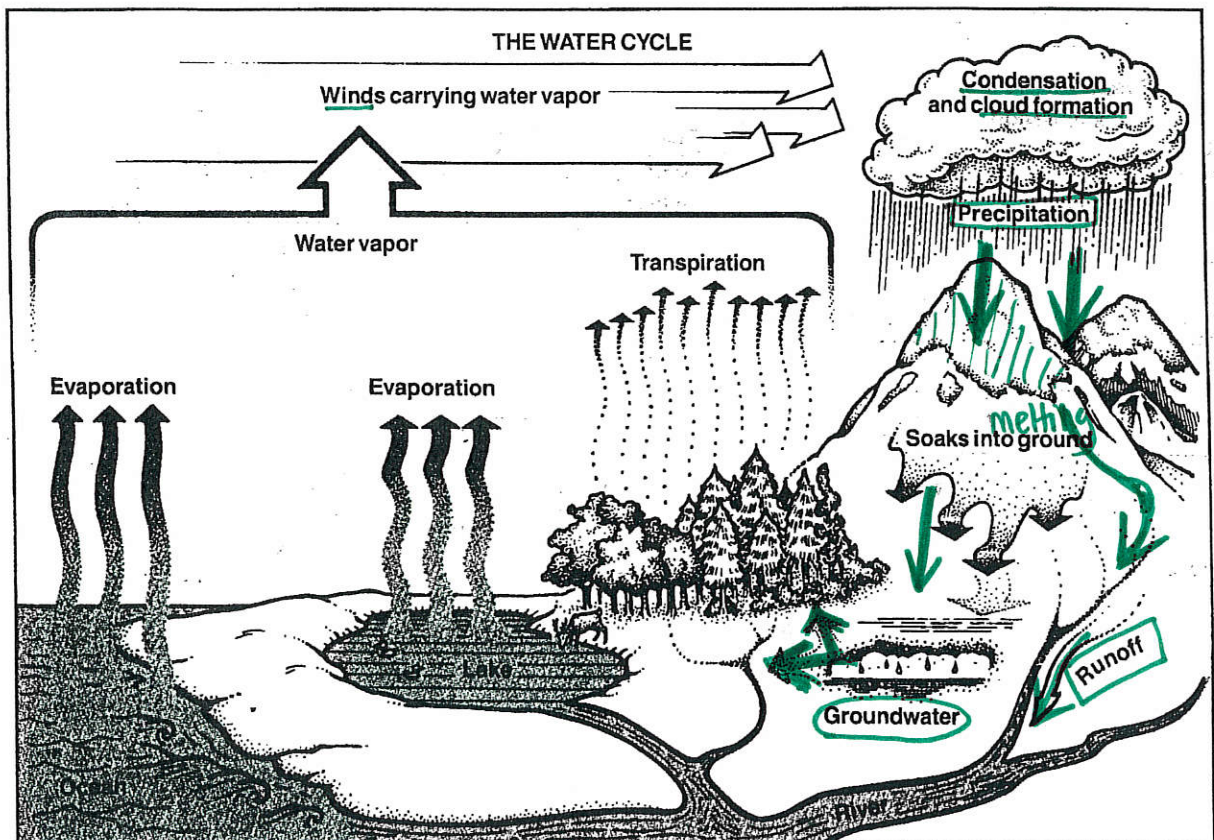


Figure 1 *Groundwater Infiltration - process by which water soaks in to the ground*

1. When precipitation falls to the Earth's surface, three things can happen to it. It can run off, evaporate, or soak into the ground. What do you think happens to the water that soaks into the ground? (infiltrate) - Becomes groundwater or gets absorbed by roots of plants.

2. Approximately 64 percent of the water that falls to the Earth's surface either evaporates or transpires. About 25 percent runs off. What percentage of the precipitation soaks into the ground? 11% (100 - 64 - 25)

3. Correctly complete the diagram of the water cycle in Figure 2 by selecting terms from the list of processes and placing them in the appropriate spaces.

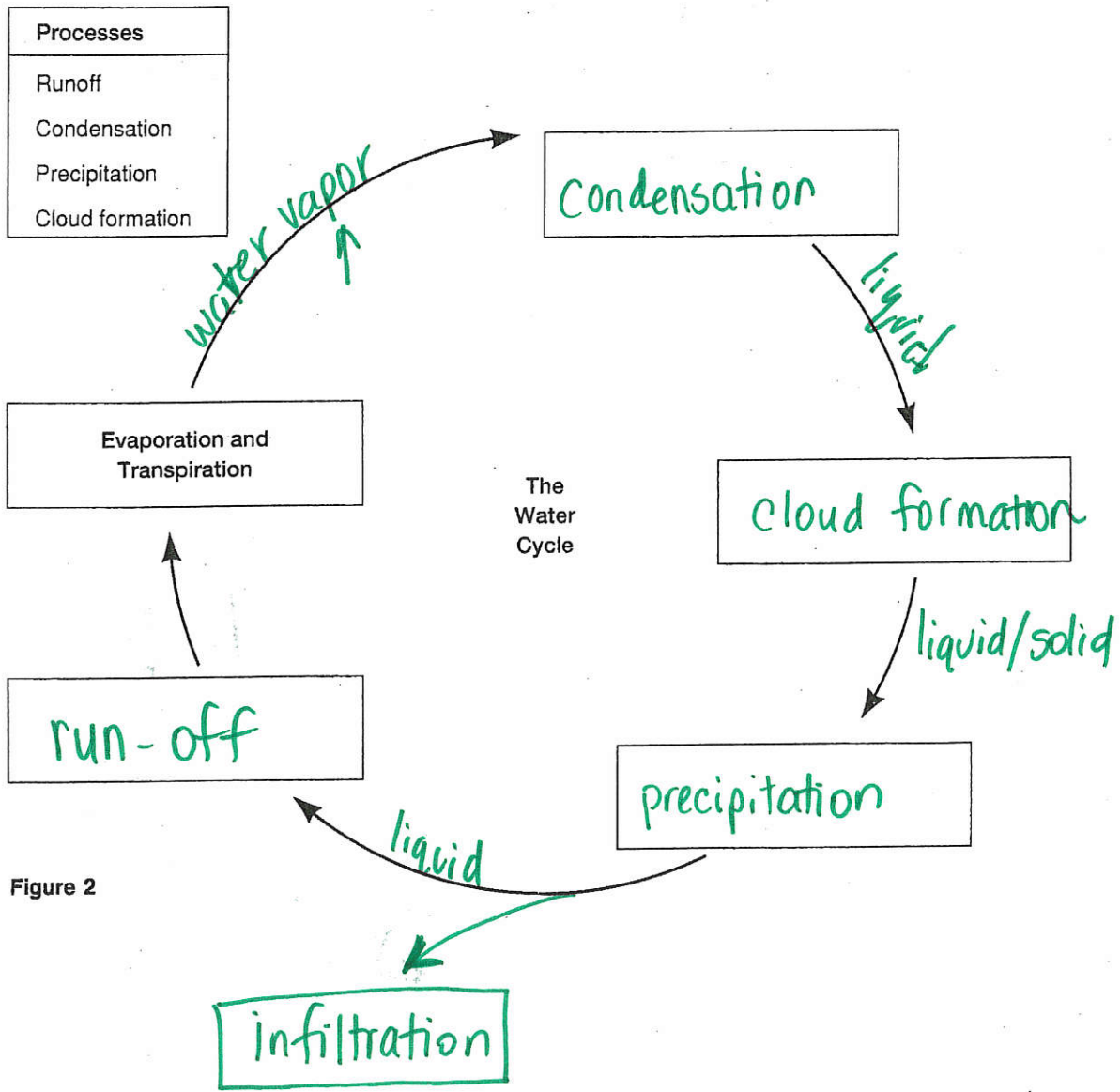


Figure 2