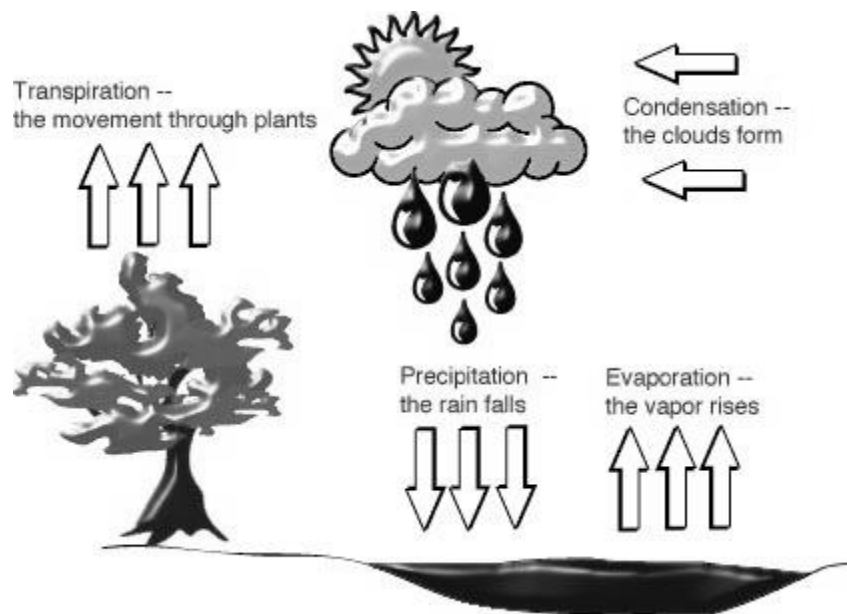


Name: _____

Water and the Water Cycle

The Water Cycle:

Water is constantly being cycled (moved back and forth) between the atmosphere (air), the ocean and the land. This cycling is a very important process that helps sustain life on Earth. Each part of the cycle drives the other parts. And the *Sun* provides the energy that keeps the whole thing going.



Let's start in the ocean, where the heat of the Sun turns sea water into vapor (gaseous water). This is called **evaporation**. When water evaporates from the sea, the salt is left behind, so water vapor is pure gaseous water.

Water also evaporates from the leaves of trees and plants. This is called **transpiration**.

As the water evaporates, vapors rise and cool. The cooled vapors turn back into liquid water droplets and form *clouds*. This is called **condensation**.

The clouds get heavy as they move over the land, and **precipitation** falls in the form of rain, ice, sleet or snow.

The precipitated water **accumulates** (collects) in lakes, streams, and rivers, and eventually it flows back into the ocean where evaporation starts the process all over again.

This cycle by which water travels from the Earth's surface to the atmosphere and back again is called the **hydrologic cycle**, or the **water cycle**.

Name: _____

Water and the Water Cycle



Questions:

1. If water covers $\frac{3}{4}$ of the earth's surface, why is there a shortage of clean drinking water?
2. We can't create water. So, how can there be the same amount of water on Earth today as there was millions of years ago? Why hasn't all been used up?
3. What are the four main processes by which water travels from the surface of the Earth goes into the atmosphere, and returns to Earth again.

What is this process of recycling water called?

Where does the energy come from that keeps the whole recycling process going?