3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

The Water Cycle

Name _____ **Date** _____

Nonfiction | 153 words | Steps in a process

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1. The water you drink today may be millions of years old. That is because Earth uses the same water again and again. Water keeps moving between the land, the sea and the sky. This journey is called the water cycle.

2. First, the sun warms water in oceans, lakes and even puddles. The warm water turns into a gas called water vapor and rises into the air. This step is called **evaporation.**

3. High in the sky, the air is cold. The water vapor cools and turns back into tiny drops of water. The drops gather together and make clouds. This step is called **condensation.**

4. When the drops in a cloud grow too big and heavy, they fall to the ground as rain, snow, sleet or hail. This is called **precipitation.** The water flows into rivers, lakes and oceans, or soaks into the ground. Then the sun warms it again, and the cycle starts over.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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The Water Cycle: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. What makes water evaporate?

(a) the heat of the sun (b) strong wind (c) cold air

2. What do tiny drops of water make in the sky?

(a) lightning (b) rainbows (c) clouds

3. What happens right after condensation?

(a) precipitation (b) the sun rises (c) evaporation

2 True or false? Circle one.

Earth gets brand-new water every day.	True	False
Water vapor is water in the form of a gas.	True	False
Snow and hail are kinds of precipitation.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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The Water Cycle: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

evaporation ○	○ when a gas cools and turns into drops of water
condensation ○	○ water that falls from clouds
precipitation ○	○ when water turns into a gas

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Explain the three steps of the water cycle in order.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Water Cycle

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) the heat of the sun
2. c) clouds
3. a) precipitation

2 True or false

False: Earth gets brand-new water every day.

True: Water vapor is water in the form of a gas.

True: Snow and hail are kinds of precipitation.

3 Word meanings

evaporation: when water turns into a gas

condensation: when a gas cools and turns into drops of water

precipitation: water that falls from clouds

4 Written answer (sample)

First the sun heats water and it evaporates. Next the vapor cools and condenses into clouds. Then the water falls as precipitation.

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