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6th, 7th, 8th Grade Reading Mega Bundle

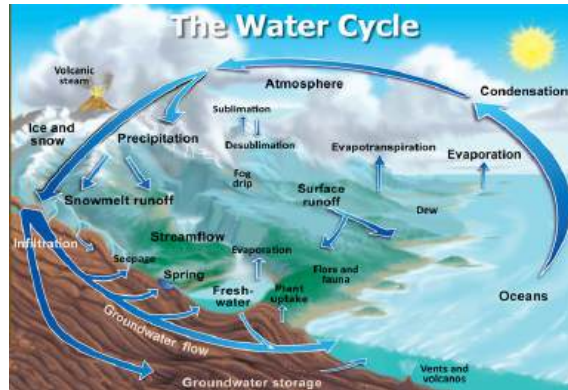
Reading Comprehension Passage & Questions

- ✓ Over 115 Readings! Covers all Science Topics
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Watersheds

Water is always moving between our atmosphere, along Earth's surface, and in the ground below our feet. It evaporates (goes into the air) from lakes, rivers, and oceans, travels through the air as water vapor and condenses (comes together) into clouds. When it rains or snows, the water falls back to Earth as precipitation, flows along the surface, goes into the ground, and fills underground water bodies. This is called the water cycle. This reading will look at what happens to water when it's on or in the Earth. Specifically, how it travels through watersheds.



What Are Watersheds?

Watersheds are areas of land that receive precipitation and drain it into a common body of water. This water can be a lake, river, stream, wetland, or the ocean. Watersheds include land, surface water, and **groundwater** (the water that goes into soil and rocks underground). You – and everyone else on the planet – are in a watershed right now. Small watersheds (e.g., for creeks or streams) make up larger watersheds (e.g., for rivers, lakes, or oceans).

How Are Watersheds Divided?

Ecobottle Sample

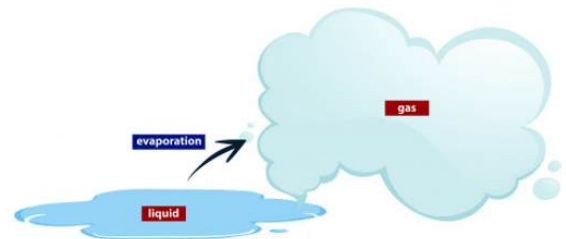


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How Does Water Move Through Watersheds?

Water moves in many different ways within watersheds: as **runoff**, **evaporation**, **infiltration**, **groundwater**, **transpiration**, or within **water bodies**.

Runoff is simply precipitation that travels along the surface until it ends up in a water body.



Evaporation is when water changes from the liquid to the gaseous state. Some of the precipitation that falls never makes it to a water body; instead, it evaporates back into the atmosphere. Increase temperatures mean an increase in evaporation rate. Higher humidity (water already in the air), on the other hand, means less water can evaporate.

Infiltration

Ecobottle Sample



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Some infiltrated water ends up as **groundwater**, which can remain deep underground in **aquifers** for thousands of years, emerge as a **spring** that feeds a stream that feeds a river and so on.

The infiltrated water that doesn't make it down to the level of groundwater gets taken up by plants to be used in photosynthesis. Any water that the plant doesn't use is transpired from the leaves. **Transpiration** is the process of water moving through a plant to pores on the bottom of the leaves and evaporating into the air. It depends on the same factors as evaporation.



Finally, the water that is left over makes its way as runoff into the nearest **water body** within the watershed. Water flows from smaller to larger water bodies, with small streams feeding into larger streams/rivers and rivers eventually feeding into the ocean.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What are
2. What is groundwater?
3. How are
4. List the six ways
5. Briefly
6. What is transpiration?

Extension Questions

7. On a large piece of paper, draw the water cycle including the flow of water in watersheds, from groundwater all the way to the ocean. Be sure to indicate both small and large watersheds. You must include all watershed elements plus precipitation, condensation, evaporation. Your drawing needs to include watershed boundaries and a view underground (you might need to be creative here).
8. What watersheds

Ecobottle Sample



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TWFSAMPLE

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