



**Scottish  
Water**  
Always serving Scotland

# The Water Cycle

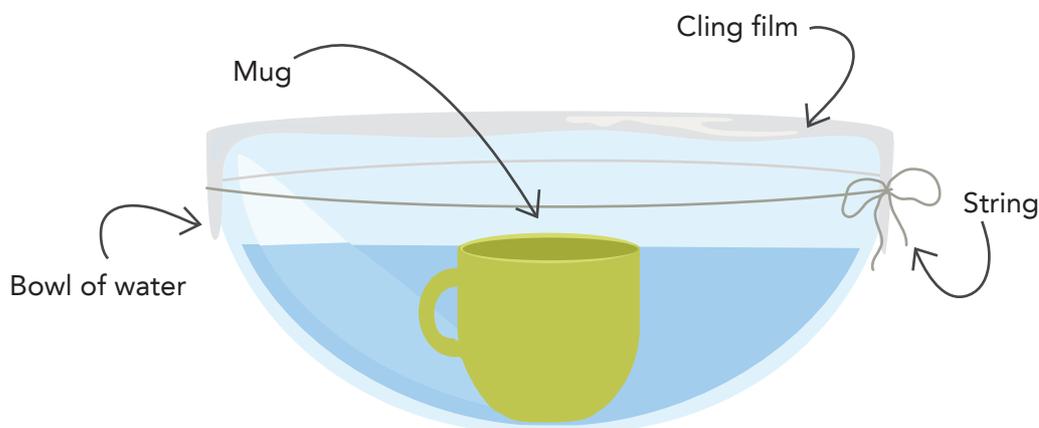
## Resource sheet 1

### Evaporation experiment

#### You will need:

- a large metal or plastic bowl
- a sheet of cling film
- a dry ceramic mug (like coffee mug)
- a long piece of string or large rubber band
- water

- 1 Put the bowl in a sunny place outside.
- 2 Pour water into the bowl until it is about a quarter full.
- 3 Place the mug in the centre of the bowl. Be careful not to splash any water in to the mug.
- 4 Cover the top with the cling film tightly.
- 5 Tie the string around the bowl to hold the cling film in place.
- 6 Come back to the bowl every half an hour to see what happens.



The “mist” that forms on the cling film will change into larger drops of water that will begin to drip. (You can speed up the dripping by carefully moving the bowl - don't splash! - into the shade). When this happens, continue watching for a few minutes, then carefully peel back the clingfilm. Is the mug still empty? Water from the “ocean” of water in the bowl evaporated. It condensed to form misty “clouds” on the cling film. When the clouds became saturated it “rained” into the mug!



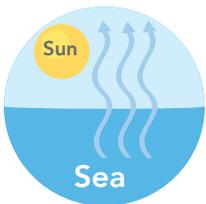
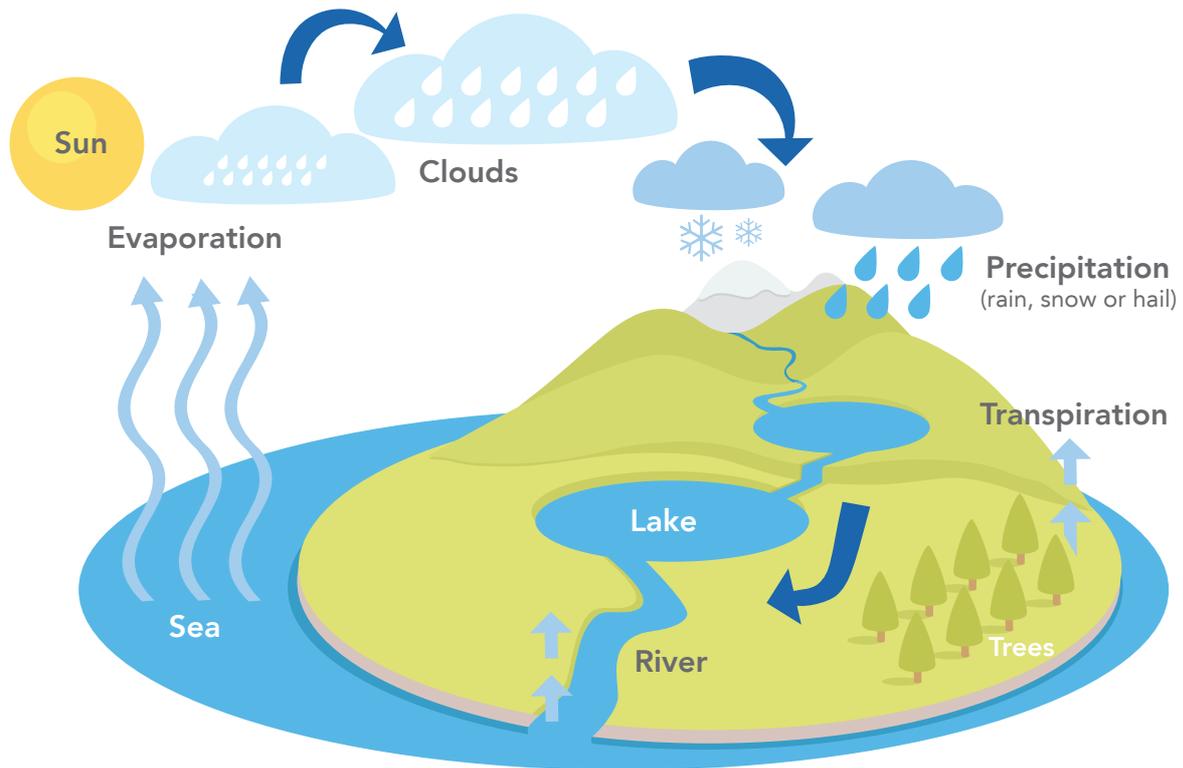


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## Resource sheet 3



Water **evaporates** from the sea (leaving the salt behind).



Fresh water **evaporates** from rivers.



Trees breathe out water vapour through their leaves (this is called **transpiration**).



This **water vapour** rises into the sky.



As the water vapour rises it gets colder and **condenses** to form clouds.



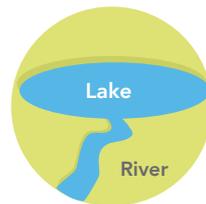
The **water droplets** in the clouds group together to form bigger droplets.



When the water droplets get too big and heavy they fall from the sky as rain, snow or hail.



Some of this water **feeds** plants, trees and animals.



The rest of the water soaks into the ground and flows into rivers.



Eventually, rivers take the water back out into the sea where the cycle starts again.