



Saint Elizabeth's Knowledge Mat



Physical processes
Physical features

Year: 5

Subject: Geography

Topic: The Water Cycle

1. What I Know Already

- Landscapes and mountains – where our water comes from! (Year 4)
- The first 3 key stages of the water cycle (Year 4)
- The three stages of a river (Year 5)
- How rivers are formed through erosion, deposition and transportation (Year 5)

2. Key Concepts

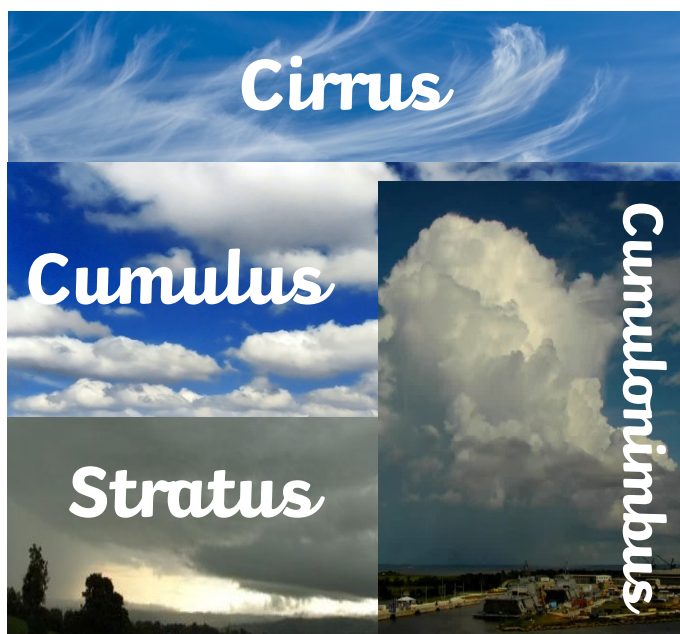
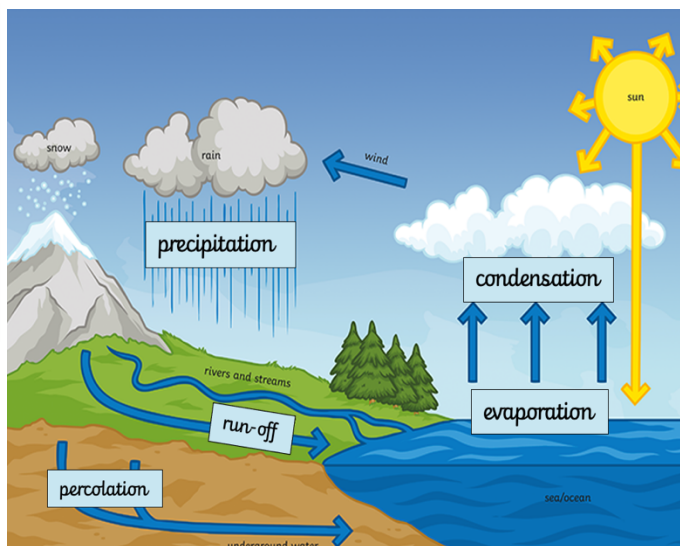
The **water cycle** describes the continuous movement of water on Earth. The five main stages studied in this unit are **evaporation**, **condensation**, **precipitation**, **percolation** and **run-off**.

Run-off is water that travels on land's surface and collects in bodies of water such as rivers, lakes and oceans.

Percolation is where run-off water is soaked into the ground. This process involves the water flowing downward under the layers of the soil. This ends the water cycle, which then starts again.

A **cloud** is a large group of tiny water droplets that we see in the air. Clouds are formed when water on Earth evaporates into the sky, cools and condenses. Lower clouds in the atmosphere give us precipitation.

The prefix 'nimbo' and the 'suffix 'nimbus' mean that the cloud produces **precipitation**.



3. Key Vocabulary

Atmosphere	The gases that surround a planet.
Continuous	Happening all of the time without any breaks.
Precipitation	Liquid that falls from the sky. This can be rain, sleet, hail or snow.
Evaporation	The process of water turning into a vapour. It is caused by the heat of the sun.
Condensation	As water vapour rises, it cools and condenses from a vapour to a liquid to form clouds.
Run-off	Water that travels on the surface and collects in bodies of water such as rivers, lakes and oceans.
Percolation	Run-off water that is soaked into the ground.
Clouds	A large collection of tiny water droplets floating in the sky.
Cumulonimbus	Vertical clouds that indicate storms.
Stratus	Featureless rain clouds in layers.
Cumulus	Small puffy clouds.
Cirrus	Thin wispy clouds.