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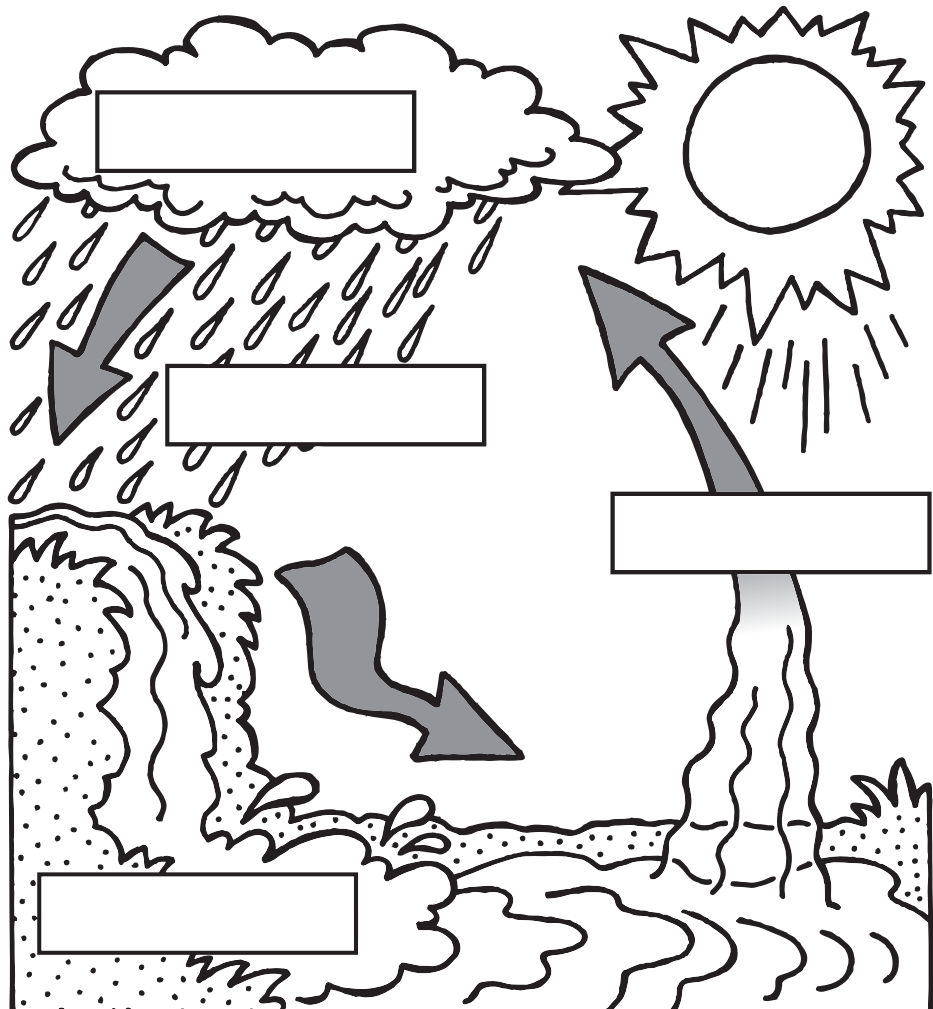
The Water Cycle

Have you ever seen a lake or an ocean? It looks like a lot of water. Where does all that water come from? Water on Earth does not stay in the same place. It moves through the **water cycle**. The water cycle goes around and around. It never stops. It has no beginning and no end. Water is always moving on Earth.

- ➔ **Evaporation:** The Sun warms the water at the top of lakes and oceans. Tiny bits of water turn into water vapor. The water vapor goes up into the air. It is a gas. You cannot see it.
- ➔ **Condensation:** As the water vapor gets higher in the air, it cools off. The water turns into tiny drops. The water drops make clouds.
- ➔ **Precipitation:** The water drops get bigger and heavier. They fall from the clouds as rain or snow.
- ➔ **Collection:** The water flows back to the lakes and oceans.

Directions: Label the *water cycle*. Write the correct word in each box.

Word Bank
condensation
evaporation
collection
precipitation



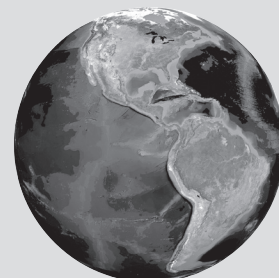
Name: _____

Where Is the Water on Earth?

Did you know Earth is sometimes called the “blue planet”? This is because water covers most of Earth.

Water is the reason there are living things on Earth. All living things need water to live. Plants need water. Animals need water. People need water!

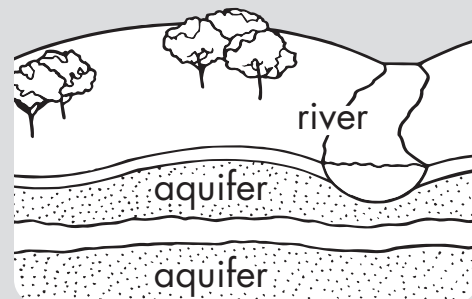
- ➔ We must drink water to stay alive.
- ➔ We use it for cooking and cleaning.
- ➔ We use water to grow plants for food.



Almost all the water on Earth is **salt water** in oceans. It is too salty for us to drink or use for cooking. It is too salty to water plants. We cannot use most of the water on Earth.

Only a very small part of the water on Earth is fresh water. We can't use most of it because it is frozen. Some is frozen in big sheets of ice called **glaciers**. Some water is frozen in the **ice caps** that cover the top and bottom of Earth.

So, how do we get water we can use? Some fresh water is under the ground in **aquifers**. Water soaks into the ground. It collects in tiny holes and cracks in rocks. An aquifer is like a big sponge under the ground. People dig wells down into aquifers to get fresh water.



Only a tiny bit of the fresh water on Earth makes lakes, streams, rivers, and ponds. We can use this water. But we have to be careful not to use it all up!

1. What is an *aquifer*?
 - a. water under the ground
 - b. water in the ocean
 - c. water in lakes and rivers

2. Why can't we use most of the water on Earth? _____

3. How do you use water? Can you name three different ways?

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Ice on Earth

When water gets cold enough, it turns into ice. Most of the fresh water on Earth is frozen. Some of the ice forms in oceans, but when salt water freezes, the salt does not freeze with it. So, all the ice on Earth is made of fresh water.

- ➔ **Glaciers** are large rivers of ice. A glacier is formed when snow falls and does not melt. More snow falls on top of it. Layers of snow build up until they are very heavy. The weight of the snow pushes down and turns into ice. Glaciers move very, very slowly.
- ➔ **Polar ice caps** are huge sheets of ice. They form where the weather is cold all year long. If you look at a picture of Earth, you will see the ice caps. They are the white areas at the North and South Pole. The ice cap at the South Pole is so big it covers a whole continent—Antarctica!
- ➔ **Sea ice** is ice that floats on the ocean. At the North Pole, sea ice covers the entire ocean in winter. In summer, it gets smaller as some of it melts. Sometimes, huge chunks of ice break off and float away. These are called **icebergs**.

Directions: Write the correct word under each photo.

Word Bank	glacier	iceberg	sea ice
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1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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Keep Water Clean

If you go to the sink for water, clean, fresh water should come out. But, where does clean water come from?

In many places, the water is pumped up from under the ground. In other places, the water comes from lakes or rivers. Water must be cleaned before it goes through pipes to our homes and schools.



Where does the dirty water go when you brush your teeth, take a shower, or flush a toilet? It goes to a place where it is cleaned. Some of it is used to water plants and grass. Some of it is put back under the ground or into lakes and rivers. It goes back into the water cycle.

Some things are hard to clean out of water. We should never put bad things like bug spray, paint, or oil into the water. Living things need clean, fresh water to live. We must make sure that we keep our water clean.



We must take care of the oceans, too. Half of the kinds of animals and plants on Earth live in the oceans. And, there are many more that we don't know about yet! We need to keep the oceans clean for the plants and animals that live there.

1. Which of these is true?
 - a. Water is cleaned using bleach and oil.
 - b. Fresh water does not need to be cleaned.
 - c. Water is cleaned *before* it goes to your house and *after* it leaves your house.

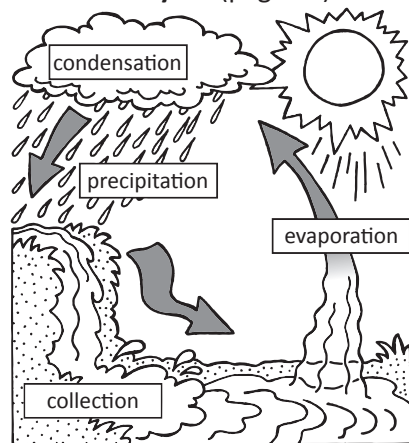
2. What are three places that our water can come from?

3. Why should we keep lakes, rivers, and oceans clean?

Answer Key (cont.)

Unit 12—Water on Earth

The Water Cycle (page 62)



Where Is the Water on Earth? (page 63)

1. a
2. We can't use most of the water on Earth because it is salt water.
3. Check for appropriate answers.

Salt Water (page 64)

1. b
2. salt; oceans
3. Oceans are important because many animals live there.

Ice on Earth (page 65)

1. sea ice
2. iceberg
3. glacier

Keep Water Clean (page 66)

1. c
2. Our water can come from under the ground or from lakes and rivers. Accept other answers appropriate for your area.
3. Check for appropriate answers.

Unit 13—Landforms

Landforms (page 67)

1. c
2. same; changing
3. Wind and water break rocks into smaller pieces. The small pieces get moved to new places.

Mountains and Hills (page 68)

1. a
2. range
3. Mountains can be made when edges of the plates of Earth's crust push up; Volcanoes can make mountains.

Valleys and Canyons (page 69)

1. c
2. canyon
3. Glaciers drag rocks that grind away some of the land.

Plains (page 70)

1. c
2. rivers
3. Wind and rain break down the lava rock into soil so grass can grow.

People Change the Land (page 71)

1. People cut down trees to clear land for farming, for building, and for making paper. (any 2)
2. People change the land to grow food, get wood, build roads, and get oil and minerals. (any 2)
3. erosion

Unit 14—Bodies of Water

Water on Earth (page 72)

1. b
2. streams; lakes
3. Because it is mostly covered with water, which looks blue.

Oceans (page 73)

1. c
2. surface
3. Rain water carries salt from rocks down rivers into the ocean.

Rivers and Streams (page 74)

1. a
2. downhill
3. Rivers can wear away dirt and rock to make canyons. They can drop lots of dirt and rock.

Lakes (page 75)

1. a
2. dam
3. The water does not flow out. It evaporates and leaves a lot of salt behind.

People Change Water on Earth (page 76)

1. c
2. dam
3. We need water to live. We drink, cook, and clean with water. We use it to grow food.

Unit 15—Maps

What Is a Map? (page 77)

1. Check the coloring on the map for land (green or brown) and for water (blue).
2. Wilderness Park
3. on the map key
4. mountain
5. compass rose