

# Water Cycle: From the Sky to the Land and Back Again

Follow the path of the water. Read the paragraph and fill in the blanks in the image.

All over the world **precipitation** falls from the clouds as rain, snow or hail. In mountainous areas with snow when the weather warms up **snowmelt** runs down toward sea level. As the **runoff** reaches lower elevations it can end up in lakes, rivers eventually leading to the ocean, or filter down to **groundwater**. Subsurface, or ground, water can stay below ground for a very long time in large aquifers. Sunlight heats up the earth's surface and draws water out into the atmosphere; this process is called **evaporation**. It even draws water from plants! This is called **transpiration**. In the sky, clouds are created through **condensation** of water vapor, continuing the water cycle.



If you want to learn about the rain fall in your area you can try creating your own rain gage at home. Over time you can start to see patterns in your local rain fall.