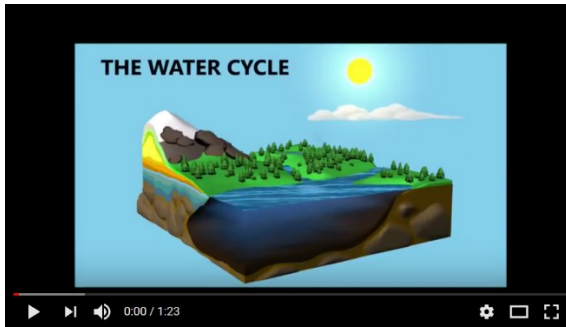




# THE WATER CYCLE



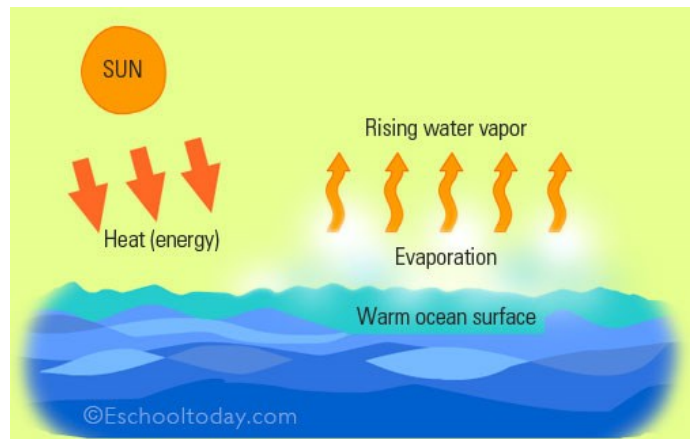
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65ZGJwaVI6U>



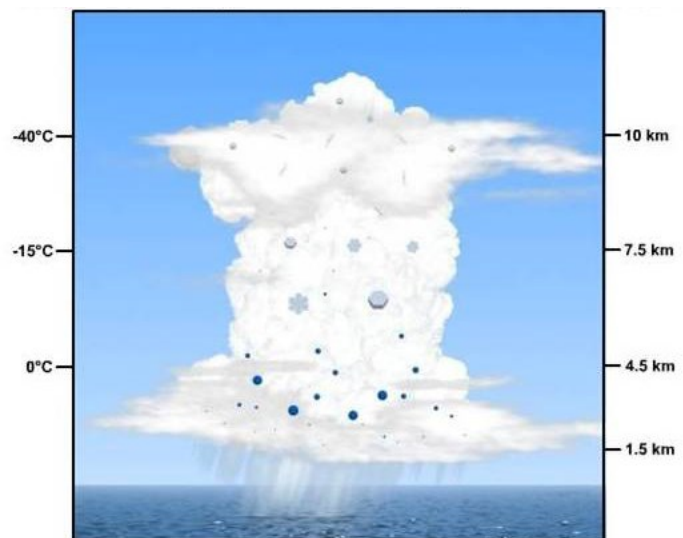
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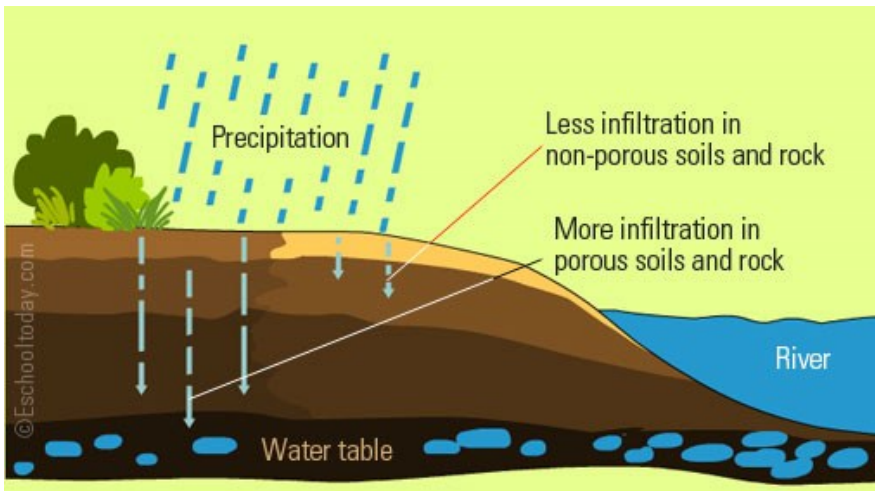
**Evaporation** is when the sun heats up water in rivers or lakes or the ocean and turns it into steam (water vapor). The steam leaves the river, lake or ocean and goes into the air.

Water vapor in the air gets cold and changes back into liquid, forming clouds. This natural event is called **condensation**.



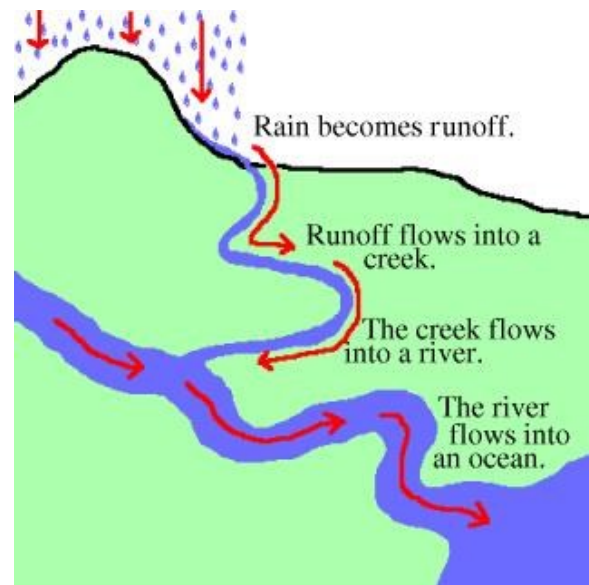
**Precipitation** occurs when so much water has condensed. The clouds get heavy and water falls back to the earth in the form of rain, hail or snow.





**Infiltration** is an important process where rain water soaks into the ground, through the soil and underlying rock layers.

**Runoff:** much of the water that returns to Earth as precipitation runs off the surface of the land, and flows down hill into streams, rivers, ponds and lakes.



**Transpiration:** as plants absorb water from the soil, the water moves from the roots through the stems to the leaves. Transpiration is a continuous process caused by the evaporation of water from leaves of plants.

