

Investigating Rivers

Learning Objective:

To learn about the water cycle.

How many different bodies of water can you name?



Where did this water come from?

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The Earth's surface is approximately 75% water. Of this 75%, only 3% is freshwater and only 1% is usable for humans.

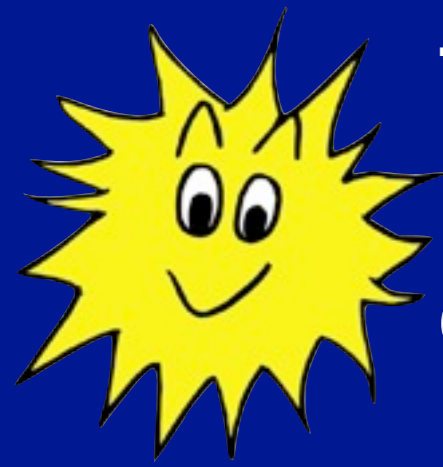


All the water on the earth is locked in a continuous cycle. This is called the water cycle, or hydrologic cycle.

Do you know how the water cycle works?

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The heat from the sun causes water from the land (for example, from seas, lakes or rivers) to evaporate.



As the water heats, it turns into vapour (tiny water droplets) and rises into the atmosphere. Plants also transpire to release water vapour.

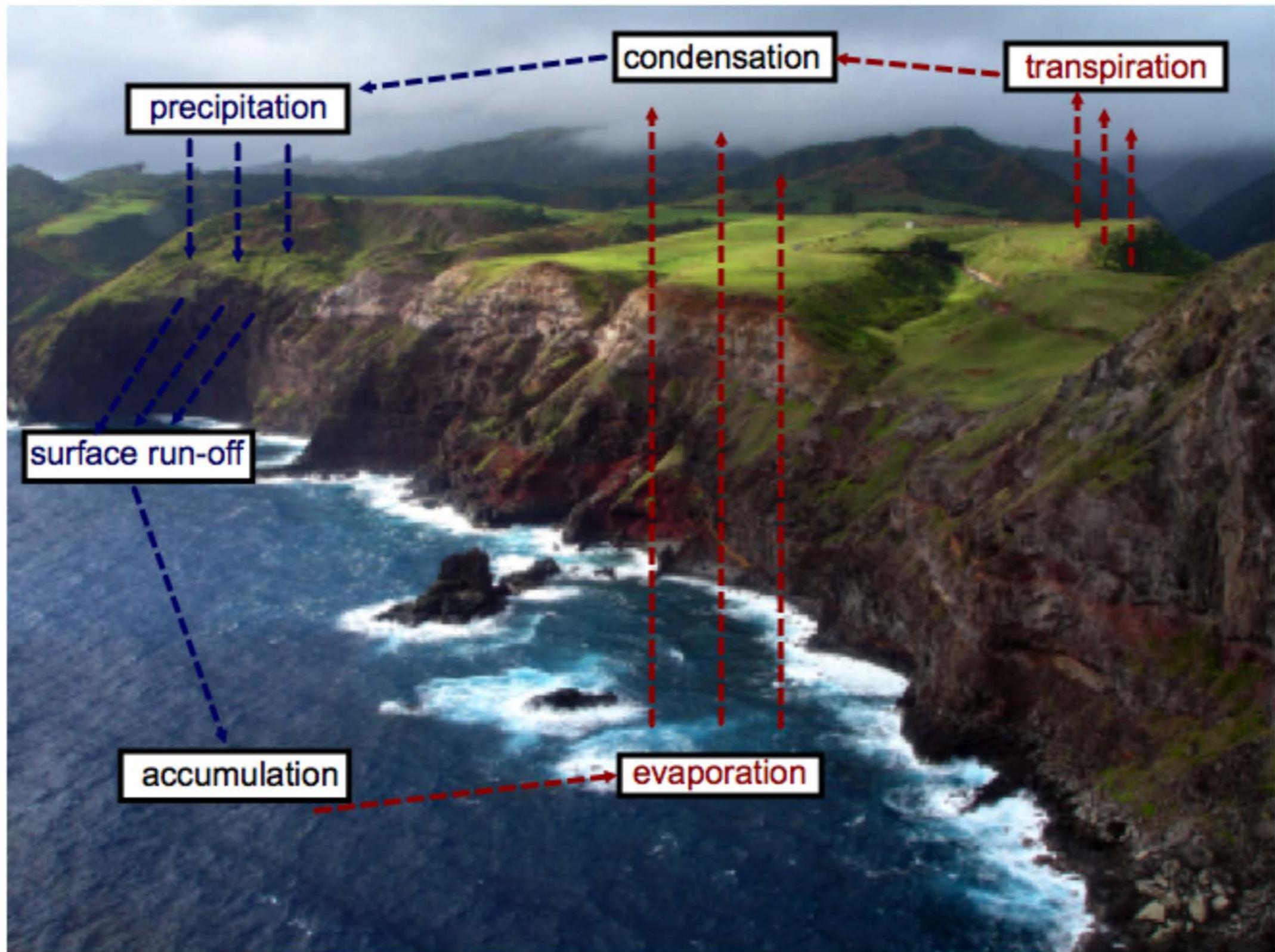


These water droplets then condense as the air cools to create clouds. The clouds then release the water as precipitation (rain, snow, hail or sleet).



Most of this precipitation then returns to the seas, lakes or rivers as run-off where the water accumulates again.





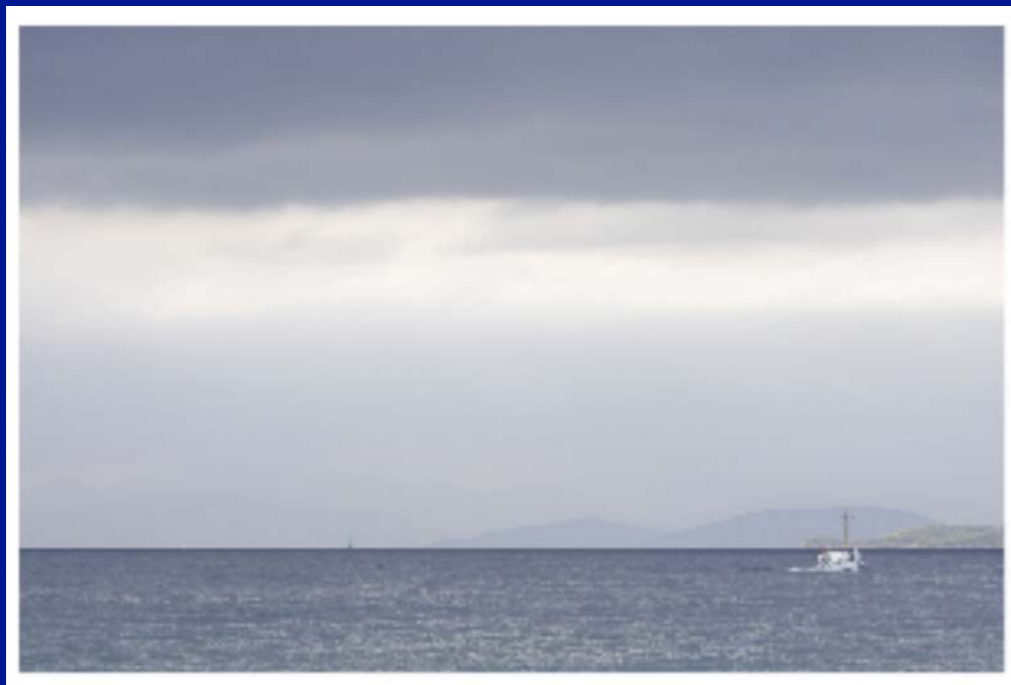
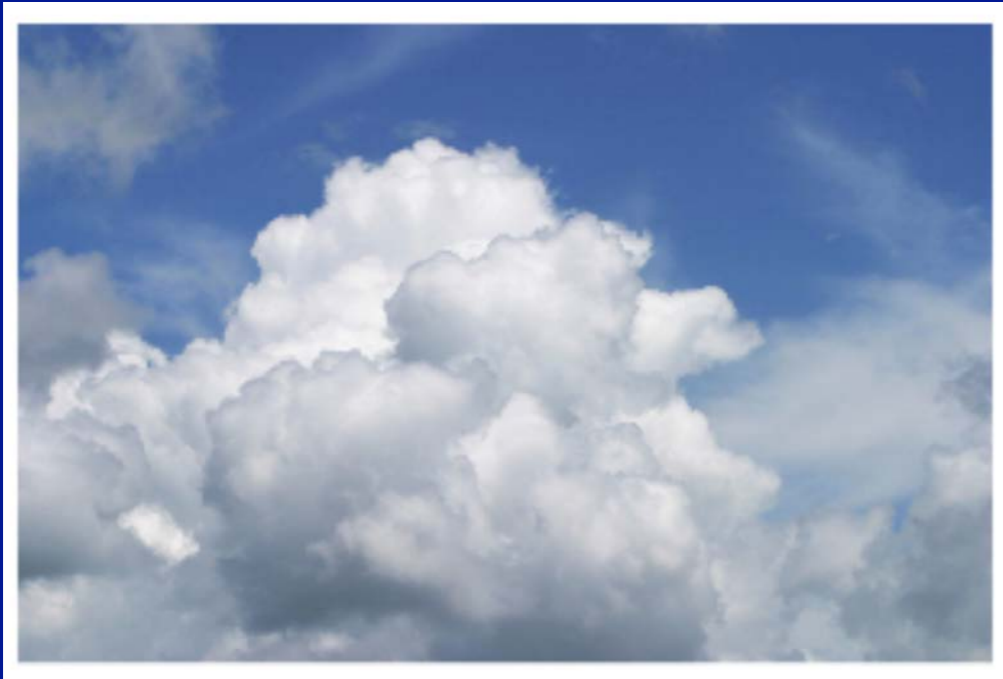
Condensation and evaporation happen around us all the time. Can you think of any examples apart from the water cycle?



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There are lots of different types of clouds.
Can you name any of them?





Cumulus clouds



Cirrus clouds



Stratus clouds



Lenticular clouds

Which of these clouds do you think give precipitation?

