**Reading extract and questions:**

**Year 4**

**The Water Cycle**

When you hear about *the water cycle*, do you imagine some kind of bike that travels on water? This would make sense but the water cycle actually describes how water moves throughthe Earth’s surface,atmosphere and below ground.This is a process that continues in an everlasting circle, which is where the word ‘cycle’ comes in. Let’s find out more.

Solid, liquid and gas

You might be used to water being a runny liquid that you use for drinking, washing and playing in but it can also exist as a solid (ice) and a gas (steam or water vapour). The water cycle describes water’s journey from liquid to vapour to liquid again, sometimes becoming a solid in between.

Evaporation

The water cycle is powered by the heat of the sun. It warms up water in places like oceans and lakeswhich makes it turn from a liquid into a gas and rise up into the sky. This process is called *evaporation*. The water vapour collects in the sky to create clouds.



Condensation

In a process named *condensation*, water vapour in the clouds cools until it becomes water once more.

Precipitation

This liquid water then falls from the sky. It could take the form of rain or snow but also as sleet or hail. Sleet is when liquid water freezes before it hits the ground and hail is small lumps of ice and snow that can drop from the clouds during a thunderstorm. This step of the cycle is *precipitation*.

Collection

The fourth stage of the water cycle is *collection*. During this process, fallen water collects in oceans and lakes before it evaporates into the sky to continue the cycle.

**condensation**

**evaporation**

**precipitation**

**collection**

Wonderful water

Water is essential for all life on earth. Because water is recycled and does not leave the earth, it has been around for millions of years, meaning that you might be drinking water that a dinosaur once drank!You may not know that about three quarters of your body is actually made up of water!

**Questions for *The Water Cycle***

**Vocabulary**

**1.** *This is a process that continues in an everlasting circle.* Which word below means the same as *everlasting*?

***Tick one***

yearly never-ending

temporary sometimes

**2.** Look at the section titled *Evaporation*. **Find** and **copy** a word that means the same as **make**.

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**3.** Look at the fifth paragraph.

What does the word *precipitation* mean?

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**Retrieval**

**4.** Look at the second paragraph: *‘Solid, liquid and gas’*

Write **two** things the text says you might use water for.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** What powers the water cycle?

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**6.** Which process follows *precipitation* in the water cycle?

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**Inference**

**7.** In the first paragraph, what tells you that the Earth has underground rivers and lakes?

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**8.** Look at the statements below. Which is true? **Tick one** then explain your answer underneath.

Only water that has fallen into oceans or lakes as rain evaporates. \_\_\_\_\_

Water that has fallen anywhere as rain but ends up in oceans or lakes evaporates. \_\_\_\_\_

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**9.** Look at the section *Condensation*. Which answer describes how long water remains in clouds before precipitation?

**Tick one**

It falls to earth straight away.

It always stays in clouds for years.

Water rains down when it heats up.

When it has cooled enough, it falls as rain.

**Summarise**

**10.**Using the whole text, **tick one box** in **each row** to show whether each statement is true or false.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **True** | **False** |
| Water evaporates from clouds to create rain. |  |  |
| Sleet first falls as liquid water then freezes before it hits the ground. |  |  |
| About one quarter of the human body is made of water. |  |  |

**Predict**

**11.** What would happen to life on Earth if there was no water on Earth?

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