

The water cycle

- The paragraphs below describe the main stages of the water cycle, but they have been jumbled up.
- Cut them into strips and discuss each one with a partner. Can you put them back into the right order?

The cycle starts when the heat from the Sun evaporates water from the sea and the land, converting it into invisible water vapour.

Rivers return the water to the sea and the cycle is able to start all over again.

The droplets inside the cloud link together to make bigger drops. When they are large and heavy enough they begin to fall as either rain or snow, depending on the temperature at the time.

The water cycle – also known as the ‘hydrological cycle’ – was first described by the Greek scientist and mathematician, Thales, over 2,500 years ago.

The water vapour rising into cold air condenses into tiny drops of water. Millions of these tiny drops will form into a cloud. If the air is very cold the drops may turn into ice.

Some of the moisture that falls as rain or snow runs off the land and finds its way into rivers and streams. Some of these rivers may be specially dammed to fill reservoirs. Water that soaks through porous rocks underground help to feed rivers from springs.

Teachers' notes

For the correct order of the water cycle go online to www.scholastic.co.uk/magazines/worksheets-jet.htm and download the answer sheet.

