

Discovering The Water Cycle

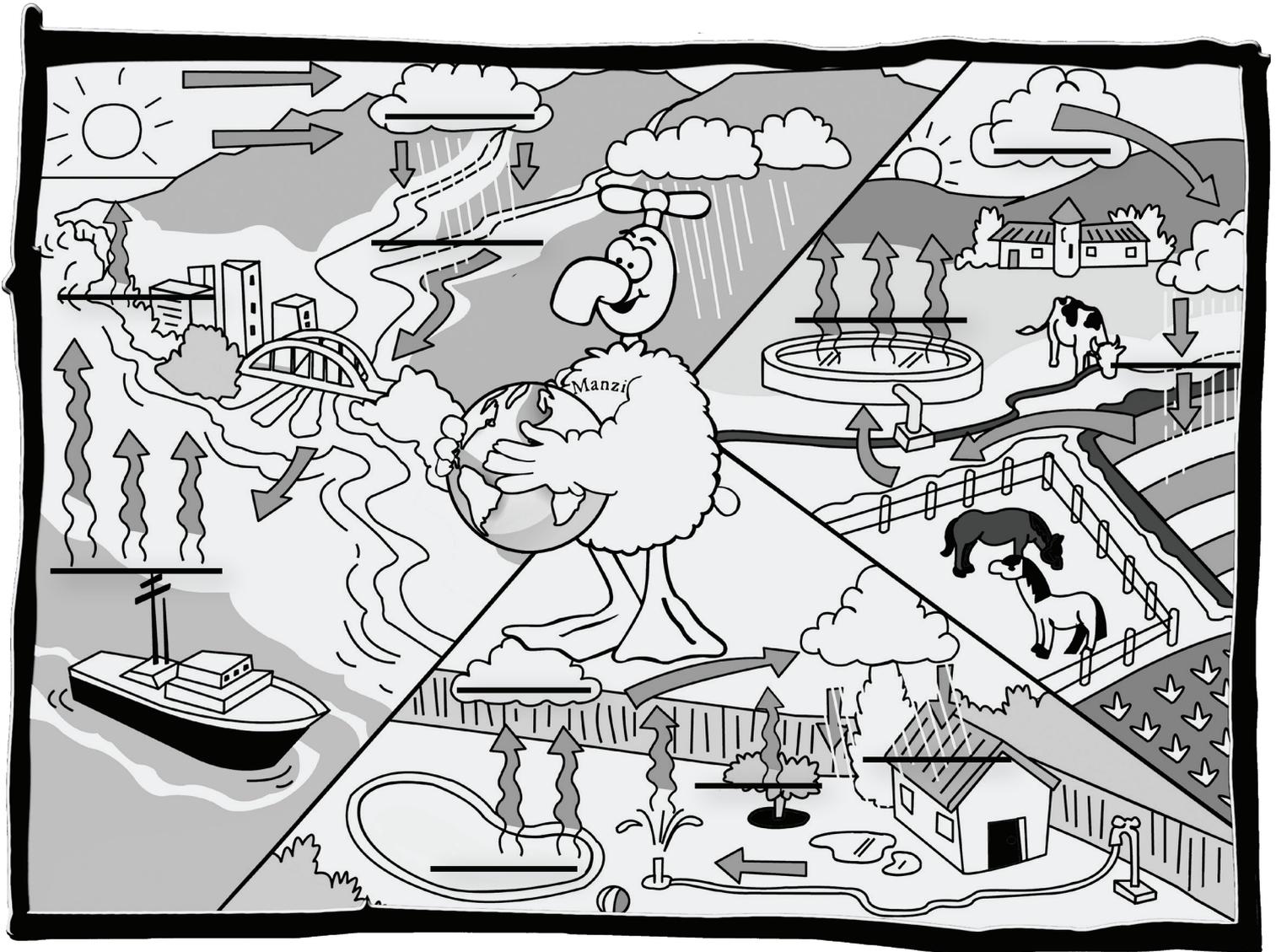
1. Read about the water cycle:

The water on Earth is very old. This is because the Earth recycles (reuses) its water. The water we use now was used millions of years ago. This recycling of water is called **the water cycle**.

Water is found on Earth in oceans, rivers, lakes, dams, swimming pools, and even in soil. Heat from the sun causes some of the water droplets to change from a liquid into a gas called water vapour. This is called **EVAPORATION**. Most of the dirt in the water is left behind when the water evaporates. When water droplets evaporate from leaves, this is called **TRANSPIRATION**.

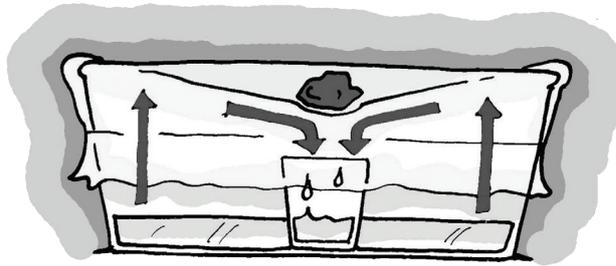
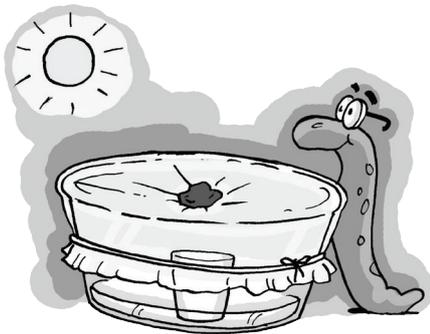
The water vapour then rises into the atmosphere. As the water vapour rises, it cools down and changes from a gas into a liquid in the form of water droplets. This is called **CONDENSATION**. When these water droplets are in the atmosphere, they join together and form clouds. When the droplets get too heavy to stay in the atmosphere, they fall to the Earth as either rain, hail, or snow. This is called **PRECIPITATION**. Some of these water droplets fall into oceans, rivers, lakes, and dams. Some of the water droplets fall onto land where they soak into the ground or run off the surface into rivers, dams and the ocean. Then, the water cycle process starts again. Our Earth uses water wisely! Do you?

2. The picture below shows the water cycle at the sea, at a farm and at a home. Use the information you read above to fill in the words in the blank spaces:



3. Ask your caregiver or your teacher to assist you with the experiment below:

- Place some water with some soil dissolved in it (dirty water) at the bottom of a glass bowl.
- Put an empty glass or plastic cup in the centre of the bowl. (Be careful not to splash any water into it.)
- Cover the bowl with plastic ("cling") wrap, and secure it with an elastic band.
- Place a small stone in the centre of the plastic wrap, directly above the glass or cup.
- Place the bowl in the sun for a few hours and see what happens. Can you explain what happened?



4. Search this maze of letters to find these 15 words. Draw a circle around each word that you find. The words are written forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards or diagonally.

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|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| CLOUDS | CONDENSATION | CYCLE |
| DAMS | DROPLETS | EVAPORATION |
| HAIL | OCEANS | PRECIPITATION |
| RAIN | RECYCLES | RIVERS |
| TRANSPIRATION | VAPOUR | WATER |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | V | L | X | B | R | L | L | G | W | I | S | N |
| N | S | A | M | Y | I | A | I | B | A | X | E | O |
| U | O | M | O | D | V | C | A | F | T | V | L | I |
| R | K | I | A | F | E | V | H | A | E | A | C | T |
| H | A | T | T | D | R | Q | E | B | R | P | Y | A |
| N | O | I | T | A | S | N | E | D | N | O | C | R |
| L | E | M | N | V | R | A | K | P | T | U | E | I |
| J | C | I | S | D | U | O | L | C | V | R | R | P |
| P | T | Y | Q | D | R | O | P | L | E | T | S | S |
| P | R | E | C | I | P | I | T | A | T | I | O | N |
| K | Z | A | N | L | Z | B | J | T | V | S | I | A |
| V | A | X | E | X | E | U | G | V | V | E | W | R |
| S | N | A | E | C | O | X | J | H | K | E | A | T |

For more Water Wise activities and information please log onto <http://www.waterwise.co.za/site/home.html>