



THE WATER CYCLE

EVAPORATION: The process where liquid water changes into water vapor (gas).

CONDENSATION: The process where water vapor (gas) changes into water droplets (liquid).

PLANT UPTAKE: Water taken from the groundwater flow and soil moisture.

TRANSPIRATION: Evaporation of liquid water from plants and trees into the atmosphere.

TRANSPORTATION: The movement of solid, liquid and gaseous water through the atmosphere.

RUNOFF: River, lake, and stream transport of water and transport of ice in glaciers.

PRECIPITATION: Water that falls to the earth. Most precipitation falls as rain but includes snow, sleet, drizzle, and hail.

GROUNDWATER: Underground water flow (aquifers).

DEPOSITION: Water vapor (a gas) changes into ice (a solid) without going through the liquid phase.

SUBLIMATION: Ice and snow (a solid) changes into water vapor (a gas) without moving through the liquid phase.

INFILTRATION: Movement of water into the ground from the surface.

PERCOLATION: Movement of water past the soil going deep into the groundwater.

National Weather Service
www.weather.gov/jetstream

