

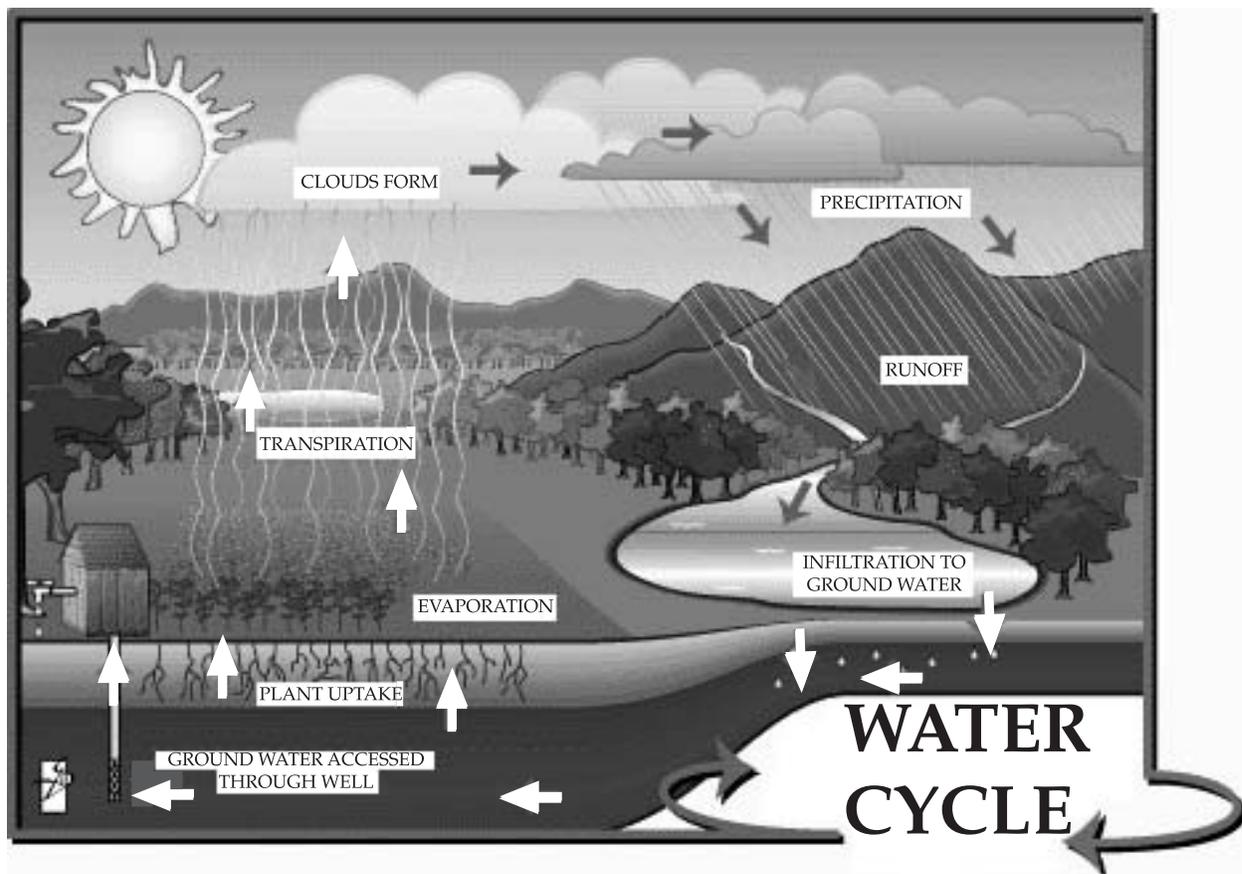
Read the following selection to learn how and why Earth's water is constantly moving. Then use both the selection and the diagram to answer the questions.

## The Water Cycle

by Walter Wick

The sun's heat and the earth's gravity keep water in constant motion. Water evaporates from puddles, ponds, lakes, and oceans; from plants and trees; and even from your skin. Water vapor moves invisibly through the air, but it is always ready to condense on a cool blade of grass or the surface of a pond. Massive clouds form as vapor condenses on tiny particles of dust in the air. Then, and only then, can water fall from the sky as rain [precipitation], replenishing lakes, rivers, and oceans. Hard to predict, impossible to control, water cycles around the earth.

And water is precious. Without it, not a single living thing could survive. No plants would grow, not even one blade of grass. No animals would roam the earth, not even a spider. But somewhere in the world right now, snow drifts on a mountaintop and rain falls in a valley. And all around us, we are reminded of the never ending journey of a drop of water.



“The Water Cycle” from *A Drop of Water* by Walter Wick. Copyright © 1997 by Walter Wick. Reprinted by permission of Scholastic Inc.

1. Which of the following **most** helps to keep Earth's water moving in a cycle?
  - A animals
  - B gravity
  - C other planets
  - D low temperatures
  
2. Based on the selection, which is the **best** definition of a cloud?
  - A rain or snow falling from the sky
  - B a mass of tiny drops of water
  - C a combination of wind and rain
  - D a collection of unused water
  
3. Which of the following relationships is **most similar** to the relationship below?

cloud : rain

  - A seed : plant
  - B mountain : valley
  - C earth : sky
  - D ocean : sea
  
4. If a planet had no water, what else would be true?
  - A It would have no rocks.
  - B It would have no insects.
  - C It would have no light.
  - D It would have no hills.
  
5. What is meant by "the never ending journey of a drop of water"?
  - A Water needs gravity to move.
  - B Plants need water to grow.
  - C Rainfall is many drops of water.
  - D Water is in constant motion.
  
6. According to the diagram, how do plants affect the water cycle?
  - A They need water to grow.
  - B They keep water from evaporating.
  - C They allow the water to run off.
  - D They draw water up from the ground.

7. Which of the following is an example of *runoff*?
- A water flowing down a mountainside
  - B lake water evaporating during a drought
  - C ground water being absorbed by the roots of trees
  - D water evaporating to form clouds
8. When swimmers get out of the pool and sit in the sun, their wet skin dries quickly. What happens to the water?
- A It turns to vapor and moves into the air.
  - B It is pulled up into the sun by gravity.
  - C It condenses and moves to plants and trees.
  - D It becomes part of the water in the ground.

9. During which part of the water cycle is it easiest to see water?
- A evaporation
  - B plant uptake
  - C precipitation
  - D transpiration

### End of Set

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*Answers to  
Grade 5 Reading Comprehension Sample Items*

<b>Passage Title</b>	<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Correct Answer</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Thinking Skill</b>	<b>Objective Number</b>
The Water Cycle	1	B	Cognition	Knowledge	2.02
The Water Cycle	2	B	Interpretation	Analyzing	2.02
The Water Cycle	3	A	Connections	Analyzing	2.02
The Water Cycle	4	B	Interpretation	Applying	2.02
The Water Cycle	5	D	Interpretation	Analyzing	3.01
The Water Cycle	6	D	Interpretation	Integrating	2.02
The Water Cycle	7	A	Interpretation	Knowledge	2.02
The Water Cycle	8	A	Interpretation	Applying	2.02
The Water Cycle	9	C	Connections	Applying	2.02