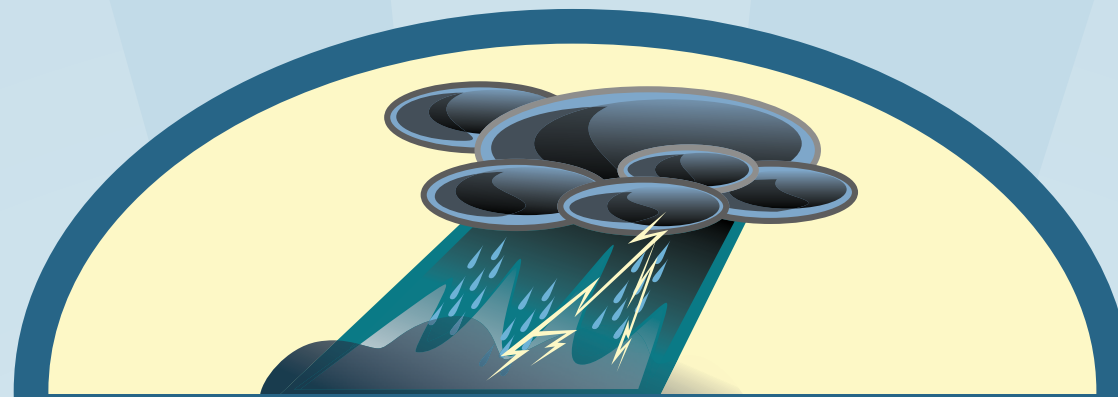


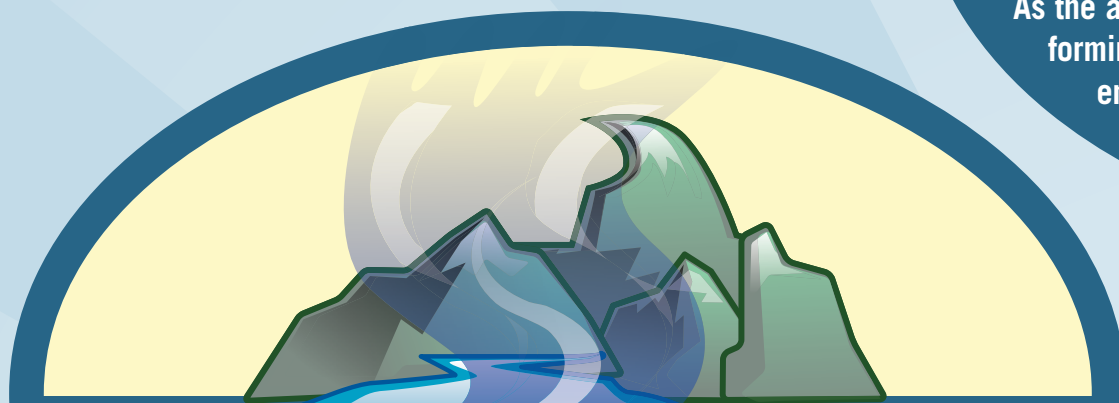
YOUR WATER CYCLE

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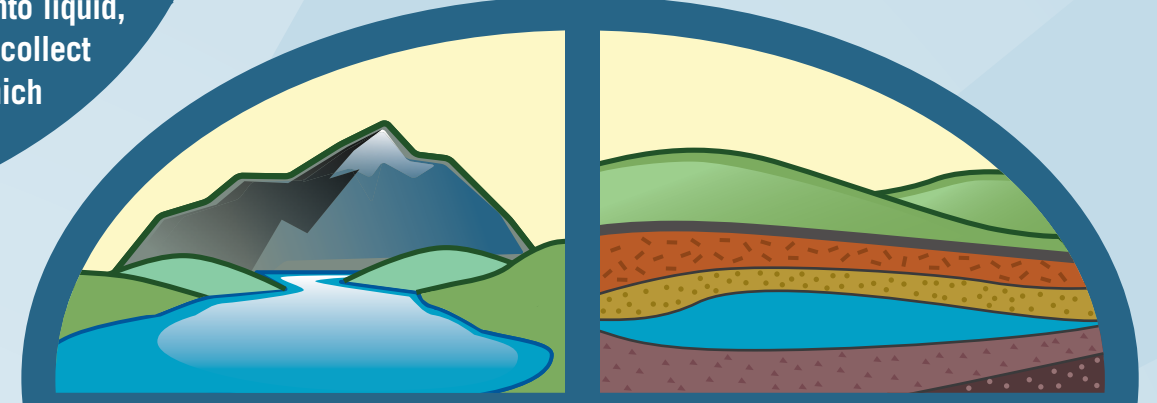
Condensation & Precipitation

As the air rises, water vapor gets colder and changes back into liquid, forming clouds. This is called condensation. When clouds collect enough water they get heavy and release the water which falls back to earth as precipitation in the form of rain, hail, sleet, or snow.



Evaporation

As the water on the earth's surface is heated by the sun, it changes into a gas and rises into the air. This process is called evaporation.



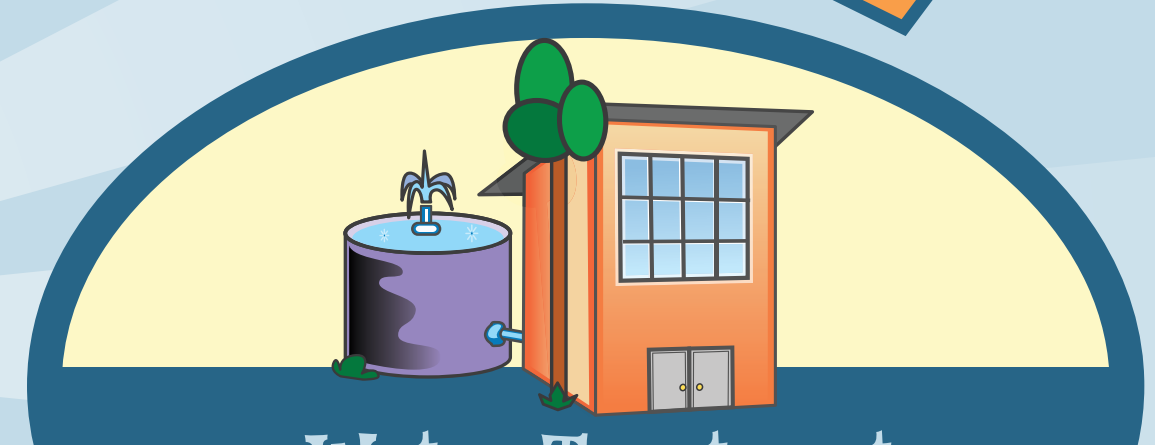
Water Collection

When it rains or snows, our drinking water collects as surface water in lakes, rivers, and man-made lakes called reservoirs, and as groundwater in underground aquifers. These bodies of water can sometimes be used as sources for drinking water.



Return Flow

Once returned to rivers and streams, water flows downhill and eventually returns to the ocean. There, it will be warmed by the sun.



Water Treatment

Even water that looks clean sometimes contains things you don't want to drink. Your water provider makes sure your water is safe to drink, or potable, by putting it through a rigorous treatment process.



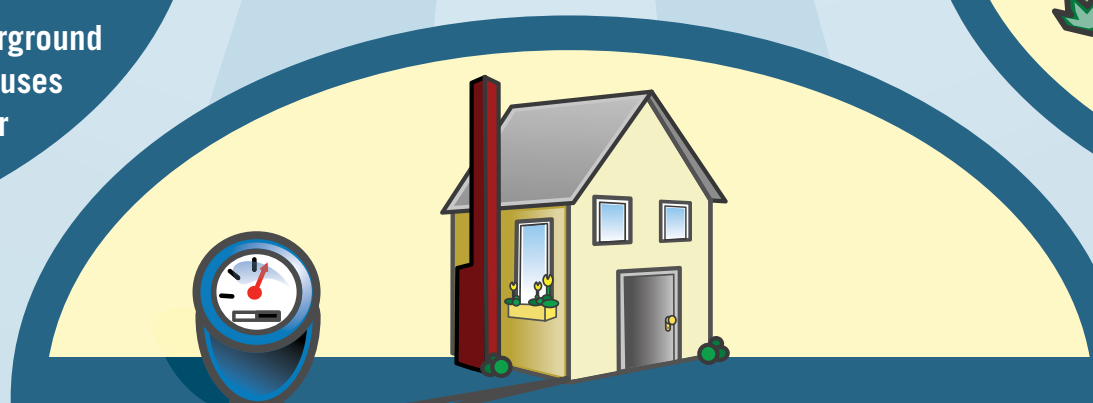
Waste Water

When water goes down the drain it travels through underground sewer pipes to a waste water treatment plant. The plant uses several different processes which clean up the water so that it can be returned to nearby rivers and streams.



Water Storage

Potable water is moved through big pipes to reservoirs or storage tanks where water is stored until it is needed by people in their homes or schools. Reservoirs also hold enough water for fighting fires and other emergencies.



Water Transmission

Water from the reservoir gets to your home or school through big pipes called mains that connect to your house or school's plumbing. At home, your family uses water for cooking, bathing, brushing teeth, washing clothes, flushing the toilet and more.

Did you know that the earth's water is always on the move?

The Water Cycle truly is a circle so there is no beginning or end. Jump in anywhere and see where the adventure takes you.

