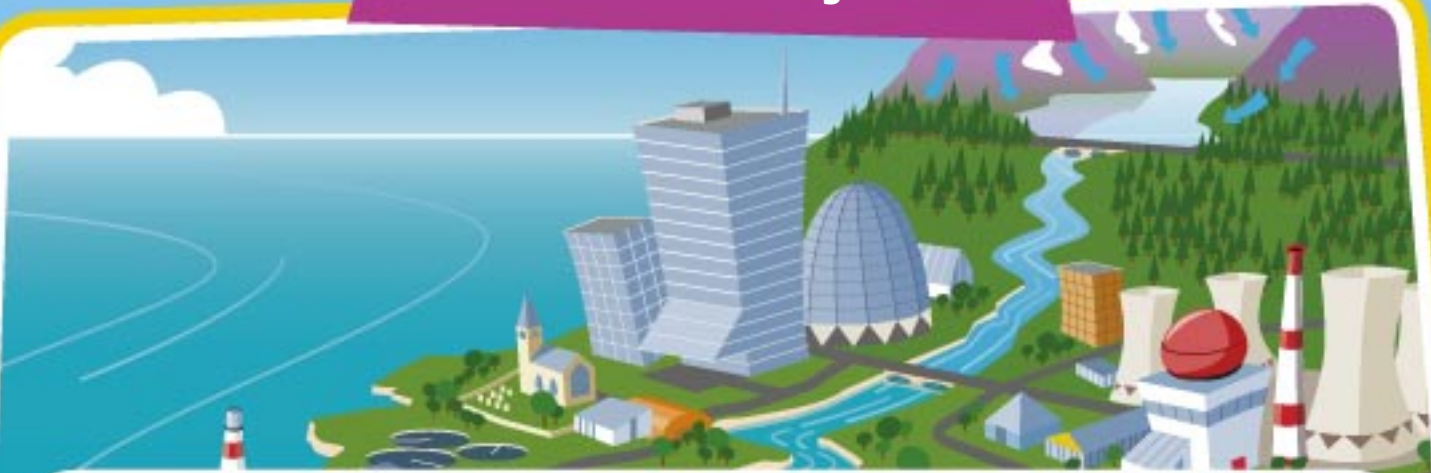


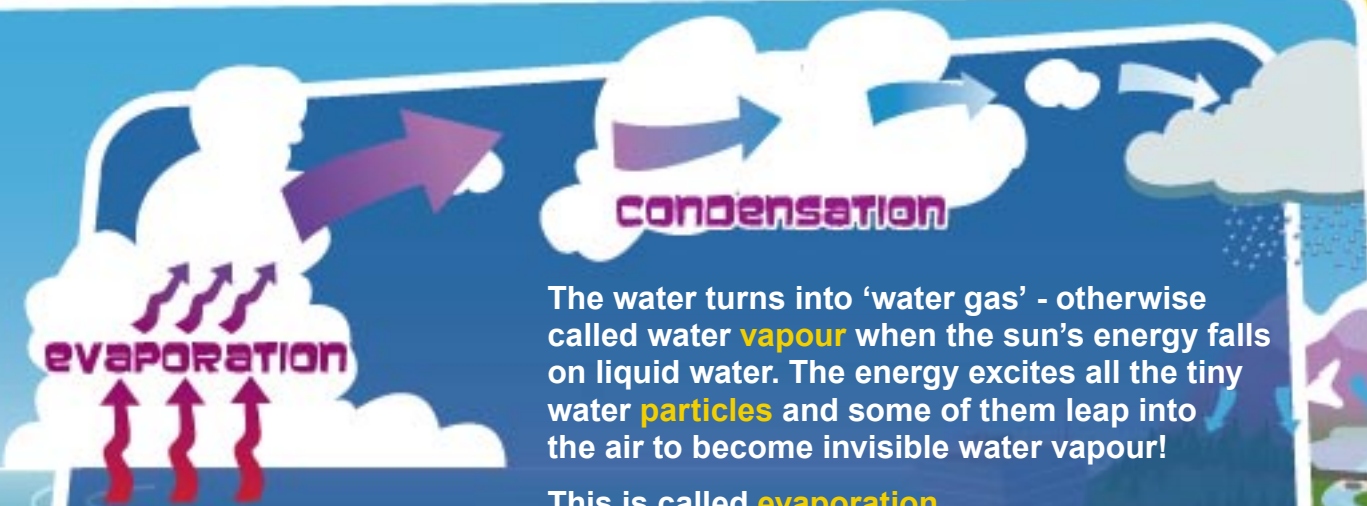


**The Water Cycle**



There is always the same amount of water in the world. The water gets used all the time, but it never gets used up! This is because it is always being **recycled**. It goes round and round in the **water cycle**.

We usually think of water as being **liquid** - the splashy form we drink or swim in, but it also comes in two other form - **solid** and **gas**. Ice is the solid form of water. To make liquid water turn to solid ice we cool it until it **freezes**.



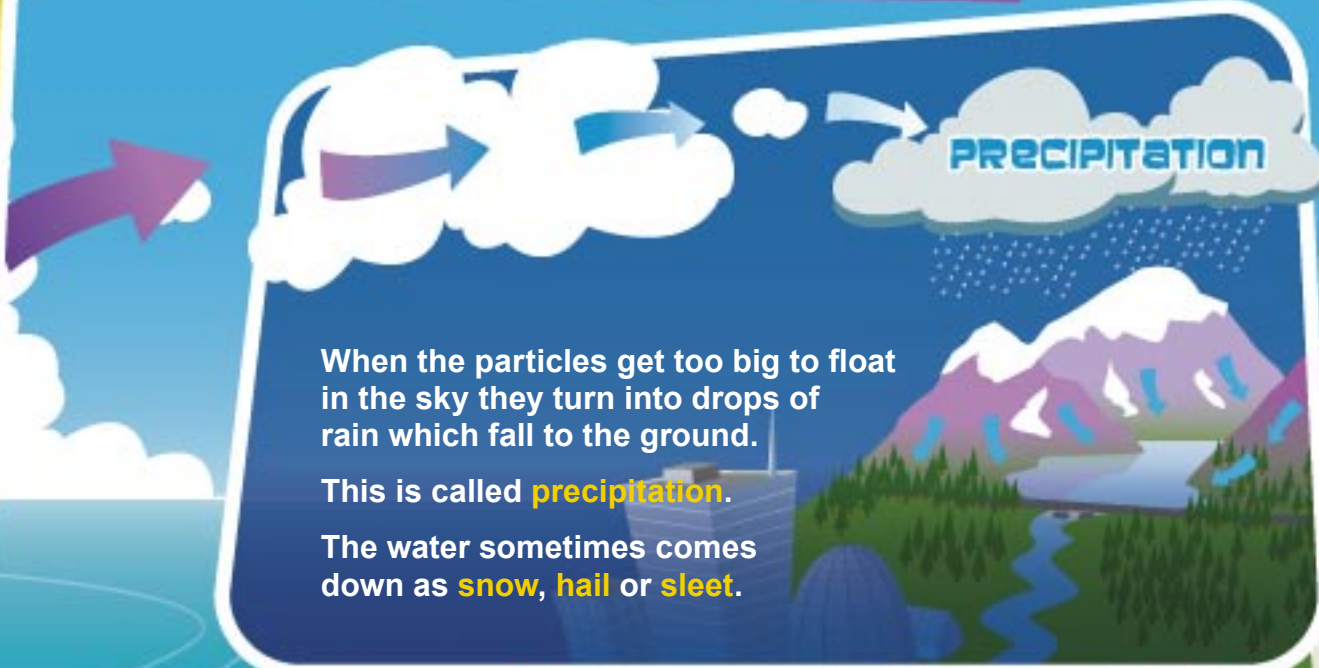
The water turns into 'water gas' - otherwise called water **vapour** when the sun's energy falls on liquid water. The energy excites all the tiny water **particles** and some of them leap into the air to become invisible water vapour!

This is called **evaporation**.

The **vapour** rises up into the sky where it cools. The particles join together to make a fine mist of liquid water, high in the sky. This is called **condensation**. This is a cloud which we can see!



**The Water Cycle**



When the particles get too big to float in the sky they turn into drops of rain which fall to the ground.  
 This is called **precipitation**.  
 The water sometimes comes down as **snow**, **hail** or **sleet**.



- The water can do a number of things:
- some rain stays on the earth's surface as **reservoirs**, lakes, ponds, even puddles!
  - some flows over the earth's surface as streams and rivers
  - some rain evaporates and returns to the atmosphere
  - some water goes into plants through their roots before evaporating back into the air again through their leaves
  - some rain soaks into the ground to make **groundwater**.