

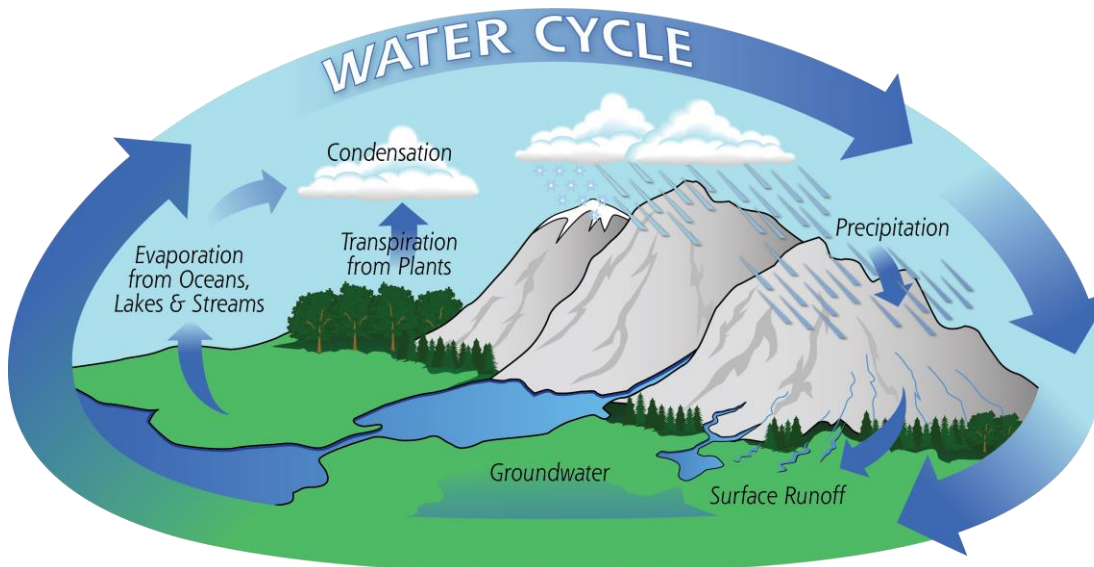
# Cloud Formation

## Try It Out

Make sure the lid to the cloud bottle is snapped shut. Squeeze the pump repeatedly until it gets difficult. Press the button on the side of the pump to quickly release the pressure in the bottle. What do you see inside the bottle?

## What's going on?

Pumping air into the bottle increases the pressure inside the bottle, and also creates heat. Releasing the pressure rapidly cools the air, which causes water vapor in the air to condense, forming visible droplets. This is how clouds are formed. Warm evaporated water rises through the air, cools, and condenses into clouds.



The Water Cycle (Image: NASA)

## What's the big deal?

Clouds are a big part of the water cycle. This cycle is vital to life on earth. Water evaporated from lakes and oceans condenses and falls down on land, which supports plant life. And the plant life supports *our* life!

## Wonder While You Walk...

Sometimes clouds help keep the planet cool, and other times, clouds keep the planet warm. How is this possible?



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