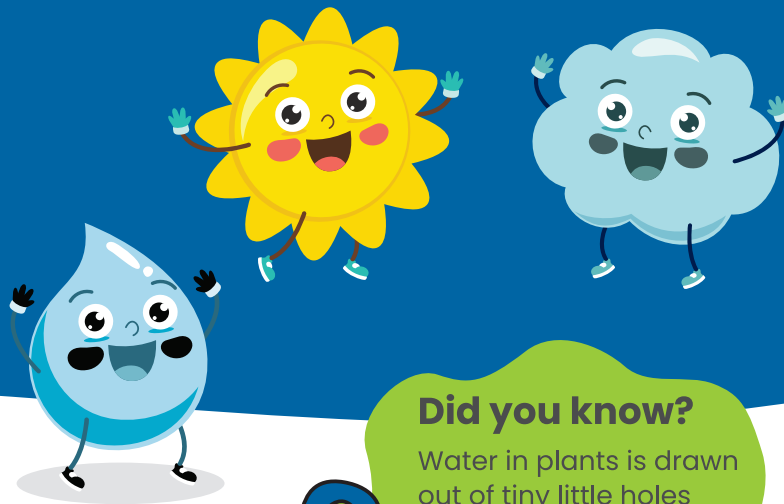


Water cycle



No new water is ever made, it just goes around in a never-ending cycle.

The water cycle

Water moves through three phases (liquid, gas and solid) through the process of **evaporation/transpiration, condensation and precipitation.**

Did you know?

Water is as old as the Earth and when you drink a glass of water, you could be drinking the same water a dinosaur drank a long time ago!



Evaporation and transpiration

The sun causes the temperature to rise and liquid water from the oceans, lakes, dams and rivers evaporates into the air as water vapour (a type of gas). Plants also give off water vapour in a process called transpiration.

Condensation

When vapour rises high in the air, it changes state to form clouds, fog and mist. The cooler the air, the less water vapour it can hold.



Did you know?

Water in plants is drawn out of tiny little holes in the leaves called **stomata.**



Did you know?

Fog, mist and clouds are pretty much the same thing, so if you have walked through a fog before you will have a good idea of what a cloud feels like.

Precipitation

When clouds become too heavy, the moisture precipitates back to earth in the form of rain, hail or snow.

Did you know?

Rain can fall at any time. Just because it is raining where you live, does not mean it's raining in the next suburb or even the next street!



Surface run-off, infiltration and percolation

Much of the rain that returns to the ground flows into dams, lakes, streams and rivers where the water will eventually flow into the ocean.

Infiltration is when the water soaks through the ground surface with percolation occurring as it continues to pass through layers of soil and rock where it finally reaches ground water.

Did you know?

Underground water moves constantly but can stay in aquifers (underground reservoirs) for up to **10,000 years.**

