THE WATER CYCLE · PART 8 OF 8 · AGES 11–16

Water Cycle Quiz

Ten questions on the whole series. Answer them all, then turn the page round to check.

1 **Which process turns liquid water into invisible water vapour?**

- A Condensation
- B Evaporation
- C Precipitation
- D Infiltration

2 **Plants release water vapour through tiny pores in their leaves. What is this process called?**

- A Transpiration
- B Percolation
- C Runoff
- D Deposition

3 **Roughly what share of all Earth's water is in the oceans?**

- A About 2.5%
- B About 30%
- C About 71%
- D About 96.5%

4 **On average, how long does a water molecule stay in the atmosphere?**

- A About 9 hours
- B About 9 days
- C About 9 years
- D About 3,000 years

5 **Rising air cools. What does its water vapour need to condense on to form cloud droplets?**

- A Lightning
- B Tiny particles such as dust, salt or smoke
- C Strong wind
- D Direct sunlight

6 **Which type of precipitation grows bigger as rising air keeps it inside a thunderstorm cloud?**

- A Drizzle
- B Snow
- C Hail
- D Dew

7 **Frost forms when water vapour turns straight into ice. What is this change called?**

- A Sublimation
- B Deposition
- C Condensation
- D Melting

8 **The white cloud above a boiling kettle is often called steam. What is it really made of?**

9 **Rain falls on a sandy field and on a car park. Where does more water soak into the ground, and what is that process called?**

10 **True or false: raindrops are shaped like teardrops. Explain your answer.**

ANSWERS

1. B: Evaporation
2. A: Transpiration (the pores are called stomata)
3. D: About 96.5% (71% is how much of Earth's surface is covered by water)
4. B: About 9 days
5. B: Tiny particles such as dust, salt or smoke (cloud condensation nuclei)
6. C: Hail
7. B: Deposition (sublimation is the reverse: ice to vapour)
8. Tiny liquid water droplets. Water vapour is invisible; it condenses into droplets when it meets cooler air.
9. The sandy field. Soaking in is infiltration; on the car park most rain becomes surface runoff.
10. False. Small drops are nearly round; bigger ones are flattened underneath like a burger bun, and the largest break up.

SERIES COMPLETE
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