



The water cycle

Title	The water cycle
Content/ Key words	Resource
Description	Water appeared on Earth about 4 billion years ago. Only 28% of the surface of our planet is not covered by water. Its volume (around 1,4 billion cubic kilometres) is keeping generally stable: the same water is in circulation and transforms permanently through the water cycle. Indeed, water changes states and exists on earth under three different states: liquid, solid and gaseous.
	Liquid state (clouds, water streams, seas, oceans)
	Condensation: when in contact with colder layers of the atmosphere, water vapour condenses in tiny droplets which gather together and form clouds, which are at the origin of precipitations.
	Solid state (Ice)
	Solidification: because of negative temperatures, water transforms into ice.
	Gaseous state
	Evaporation: Heated by the sun, the water from the oceans, rivers and lakes evaporates and goes up in the atmosphere. It is described as water vapour.
	Water is divided as follow:
	 97,20%: salty water 2,15 %: polar ice 0,63 %: underground water 0,019 %: surface water (lakes, rivers) 0,001 %: water in the atmosphere
	Water renews itself with variable speed: 1000 years for a groundwater table, 4000 years for an ocean, 15000 years for a glacier. By renewing, we























understand the average time that is necessary for a stocked volume in a reservoir, at a given time, to be entirely replaced by upcoming water supplies. Only 0,65% is neither salty nor icy and 97,2% of the water of our planet is salty (seas and oceans). However, only freshwater (of which only a part is easily usable) is used for the humans' vital needs (food, agriculture...). We estimate that more than 80 countries in the world (i.e. more than 40% of the global population) are facing major water droughts.

Link to a national support by country

Croatian:

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Greek:

Italian:

French:

- https://physique-chimie-college.fr/cours-5eme-chimie/les-changements-detat-dans-la-nature-le-cycle-de-leau/
- https://www.pccl.fr/physique chimie college lycee/cinquieme/cours exercices corriges/eau nature.htm

sheet n°2: My environment is changed

sheet n°9: Drawing your climate reality

sheet n°15: Activity to design an ecological house model

Sheet project J: Waterap













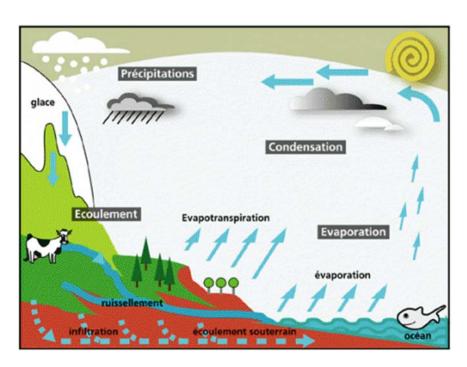












Source Dossier CNRS sur le cycle de l'eau

















