



Big Idea 14

Water Cycle

Life on Earth is directly tied to the unique abundance of water on our planet. A never-ending cycle, fueled by energy from the sun, connects the oceans, the atmosphere, and the land, providing us with this vital resource. The water cycle is also responsible for the various climates of the world. Maintaining the health of this cycle will impact the future of all of us.



Enduring Understandings

- Water is essential for life on Earth.
- Cycles produce constant change on Earth.
- Some events in nature have a repeating pattern.
- Water plays a major role in shaping Earth's surface.
- Natural resources can be affected by human interaction.
- Local actions can have global effects.

Vocabulary List

- Aquifer
- Circulate
- Condensation
- Conserve
- Evaporation
- Glacier
- Groundwater
- Infiltration
- Precipitation
- Runoff
- Salinity
- Sublimation
- Transpiration
- Water vapor
- Watershed

Essential Questions

Use these questions to immerse students in the exploration of the water cycle.

- Why is water essential for sustaining life on Earth?
- How do we get the water we use every day?
- What are ways that water moves and changes?
- How does the water cycle impact the environment?
- How does water shape our planet?
- How does peoples' use of water affect the environment?
- Why is the water cycle important?
- What is our role in the water cycle?
- Why does the quality of water in rivers and streams matter?
- How can a local action have a global effect?
- Why is it important to learn about water?
- How would life be different if there were no water cycle?

Add your own questions!


