

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Student Exploration: Water Cycle

**Vocabulary:** aquifer, condensation, evaporation, freezing, glacier, melting, phase change, precipitation, reservoir, runoff, transpiration, water cycle

**Prior Knowledge Questions** (Do these BEFORE using the Gizmo.)

1. When you turn on a water faucet, where does the water come from? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Animals and plants have been using water for millions of years. Why don't we run out?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Gizmo Warm-up

Water on Earth is always in motion. These motions form a repeating circuit called the **water cycle**. The *Water Cycle Gizmo™* allows you to explore the different paths water takes as it moves from Earth's surface to the atmosphere and back.




1. Click **Oceans**. What percentage of Earth's water is found in the oceans? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Click **Atmosphere**. How does water get to the atmosphere? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Click **Clouds**. How do clouds form? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Click **Precip (rain)**. ("Precip" is short for **precipitation**, or water falling to Earth's surface.)  
What causes it to rain? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Click **Oceans** again, and then choose the PATH tab. Because it has the same beginning and end, the path is a complete cycle. How many steps does this cycle have? \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Activity:</b> <b>The water cycle</b>	<u>Get the Gizmo ready:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select the SIMULATION tab, and click <b>Reset</b>.</li> </ul>	
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**Question: What are the parts of the water cycle?**

1. Collect data: Create two water cycles using the Gizmo. Each cycle should have at least four steps and should begin and end at the same location. Choose any starting point from the list on the right. When the cycle is complete, choose the PATH tab and write the steps below.

Cycle 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cycle 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Analyze: Use the information presented in the Gizmo to answer the following questions.

A. What percentage of Earth's water can be found in soil? \_\_\_\_\_

B. What percentage of Earth's water is stored in ice and snow? \_\_\_\_\_

C. What percentage of Earth's fresh water is stored in ice and snow? \_\_\_\_\_

D. What percentage of Earth's water is found in lakes? \_\_\_\_\_

E. What is **transpiration**? (Hint: Click the **Vegetation** button.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

F. What human activity uses the most water worldwide? \_\_\_\_\_

G. What human activity uses the most water in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

H. What organisms break down chemical wastes in a treatment plant? \_\_\_\_\_

I. What is an **aquifer**? \_\_\_\_\_

J. What is a **reservoir**? \_\_\_\_\_

K. In what ways can **runoff** be a problem? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**(Activity continued on next page)**

**Activity (continued from previous page)**

3. Define: A **phase change** is a change from one state to another, such as from a liquid to a gas. Based on what you have read in the Gizmo, fill in the blanks with the words “liquid,” “gas,” or “solid” to define each change.

**Evaporation**: Change from a \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Condensation**: Change from a \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Melting**: Change from a \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Freezing**: Change from a \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Practice: Fill in the process that causes each transition. Your choices are evaporation, condensation, precipitation, melting, and freezing.

A. Ocean → Atmosphere \_\_\_\_\_

B. Atmosphere → Clouds \_\_\_\_\_

C. Cloud → Snow \_\_\_\_\_

D. **Glacier** (river of ice) → River \_\_\_\_\_

E. Cloud → Soil \_\_\_\_\_

5. Practice: Fill in the *two* processes that cause each of the following transitions.

A. Ocean → Cloud \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

B. Cloud → Glacier \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

6. Think and discuss: Water covers over two-thirds of Earth’s surface. Yet water shortages are a major problem for many people around the world. Why do you think this is the case?

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