

UNIT 02 / 08 • LEARN & TRY

Water cycles and unequal access

Name: _____ Date: _____

Learn

Water moves between land, oceans and atmosphere through evaporation, condensation, precipitation and flows over or beneath the ground. The Sun supplies energy for evaporation, while gravity helps water flow downhill. Fresh water is unevenly distributed, and safe access also depends on infrastructure and management. Groundwater is replenished when water infiltrates suitable ground, but excessive extraction can lower water levels. Conserving water includes reducing waste, protecting sources and planning fair access, rather than assuming a river or well provides an unlimited supply.

Worked example

If a town pumps groundwater faster than rainfall and other sources replenish it over time, the water table can fall. Rainwater harvesting may help recharge where ground conditions are suitable.

1. Name the change from water vapour to liquid droplets.

2. What supplies much of the energy driving evaporation?

3. Why does heavy rain not always guarantee safe drinking water?

Follow water through a simple cycle



The arrows show transfers; groundwater and some other pathways are omitted.