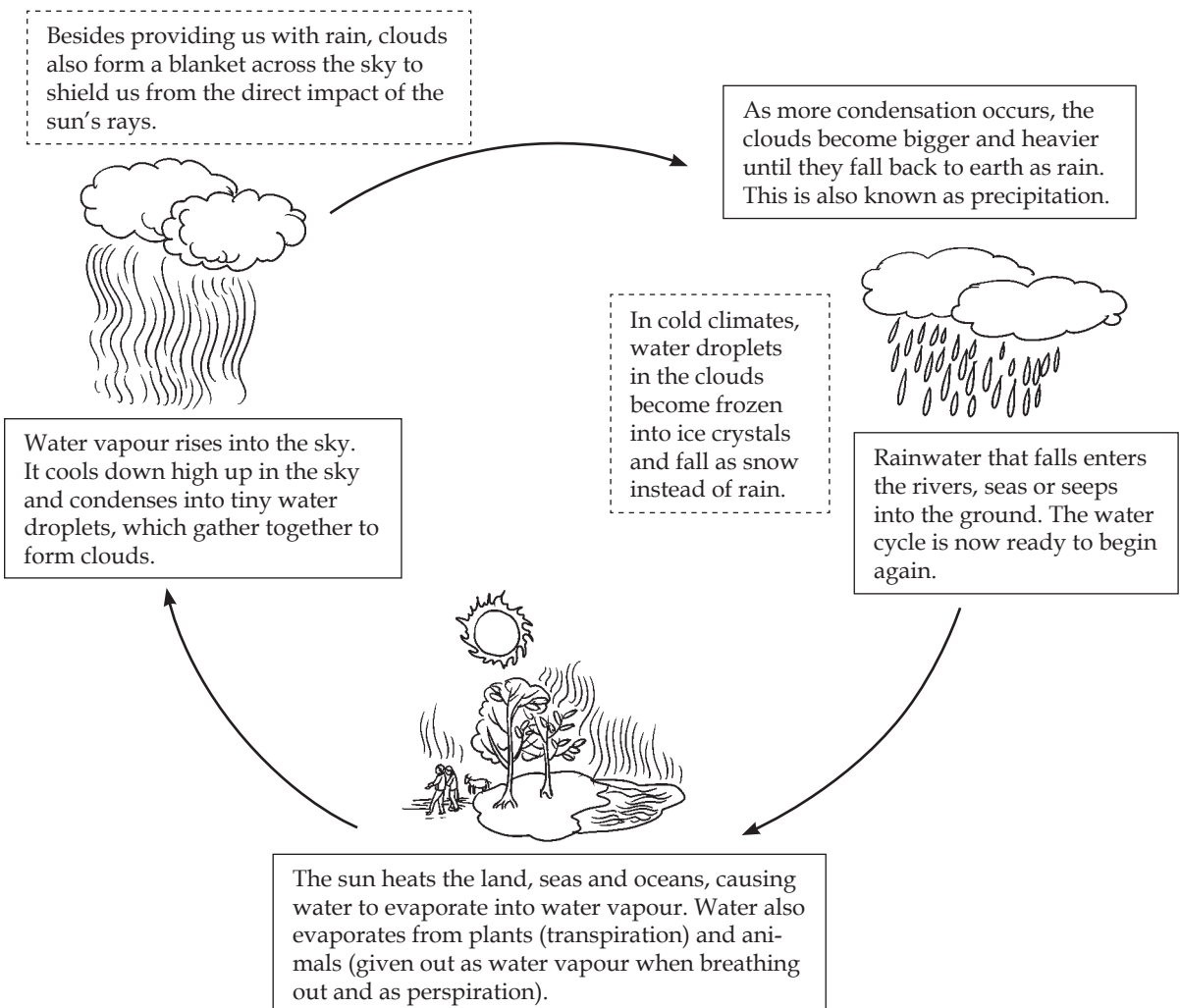


# The Water Cycle

The water that we have on the earth today is the same water that the earth has always had, and the same water that it will always have. The earth's water constantly recycles itself in a process that is called the **water cycle** (also known as the hydrological cycle).

The water cycle has three main stages: **evaporation**, **condensation** and **precipitation** (rain), which repeat over and over again endlessly. This process cycles water from the earth, through the air, to the clouds, and back to earth again. The water cycle is important because **it ensures a continuous supply of fresh water to earth.**



## Alert

Precipitation occurs when there is so much condensation of water in the air that it cannot hold on to it any more. It will then fall down as rain. Sometimes, instead of rain, snow, hail or sleet fall down as precipitation.

Adapted:

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