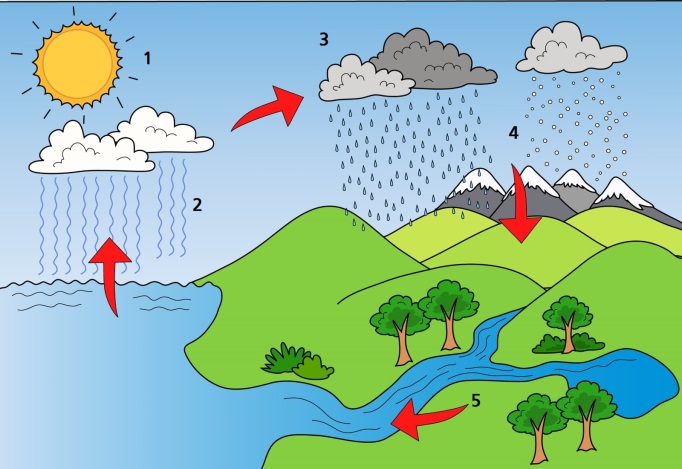
**The Water Cycle**

**Water everywhere**  
Water can be found everywhere on Earth: in the air, in rivers, lakes and the ocean, in the soil, in living things, and under the ground. It can also be found as ice and snow on mountains and in the polar regions.

**Water on the Move**  
he water on Earth is constantly moving around in a process called the water cycle. The diagram below shows how the water cycle works.



1. The sun gives off heat, which warms the water in rovers, lakes and the ocean.
2. Some of the water changes from a liquid into a gas, known as water vapour. This process is called evaporation. Water vapour is lighter than air, so it rises.
3. When water vapour hits cooler air higher up, it changes back into tiny droplets of water, which form clouds. This is called condensation.
4. Water from clouds falls to the ground. This is called precipitation. Most precipitation is rain (liquid water). Precipitation can also take the form of snow (ice crystals), hail (balls of ice) and sleet (a mixture of rain and snow).
5. Some rainwater flows into rivers, lakes or the ocean. Some is taken up by living things. The cycle begins again.

