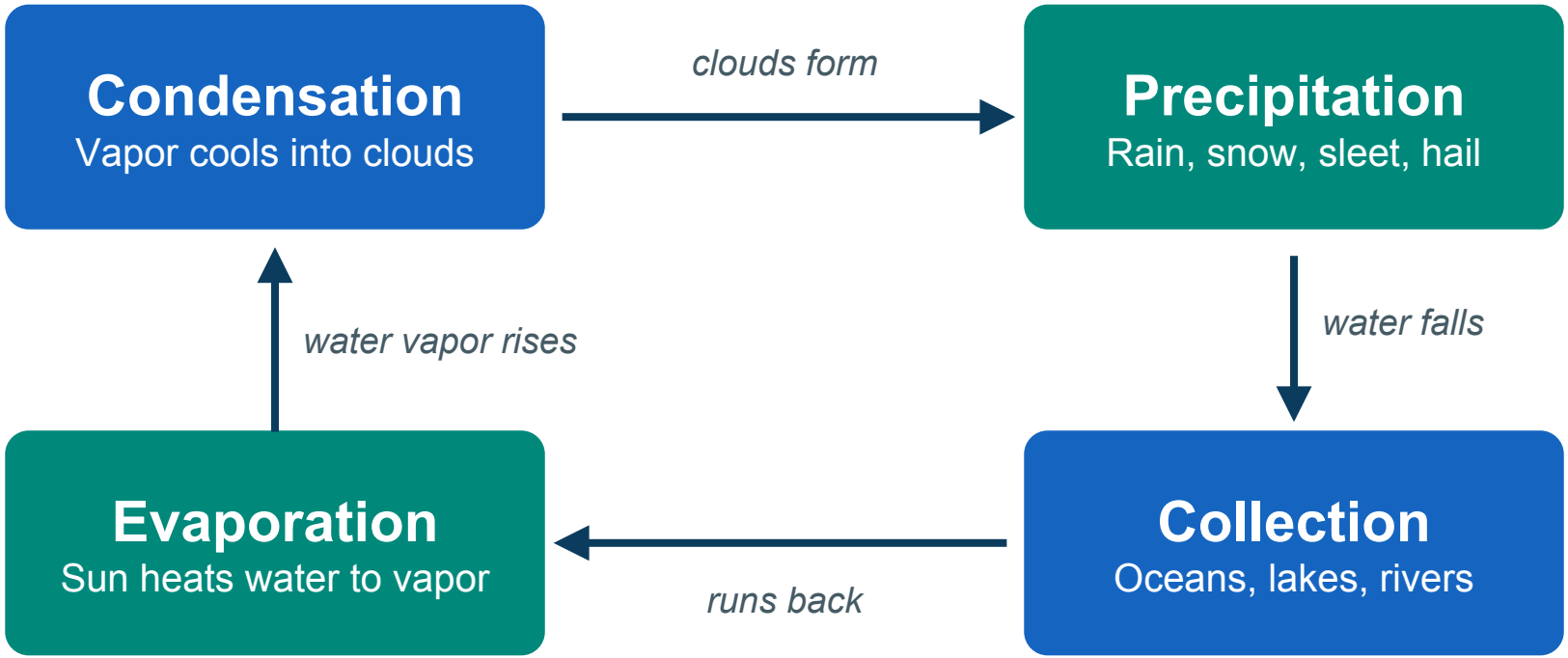
The Water Cycle

Grade 7 Earth Science | Teacher lesson

What you will learn

1. Name the four main steps of the water cycle
2. Explain how water becomes vapor and then cloud
3. Describe how water returns to Earth and gathers
4. Use the cycle to explain everyday weather

The water cycle



Evaporation and condensation

Evaporation

- Sun heats water in oceans, lakes and puddles
- Liquid water turns into invisible water vapor
- Plants release vapor too (transpiration)

Condensation

- Water vapor rises and cools high in the air
- Vapor turns back into tiny liquid droplets
- Billions of droplets make visible clouds

Precipitation and collection

Precipitation

- Droplets join and grow heavy
- Rain, snow, sleet or hail falls to Earth
- Snow and hail form when it is very cold

Collection

- Rain soaks into soil (infiltration)
- Runoff flows into rivers, lakes and oceans
- Groundwater is stored underground

Quick quiz

1. What is the process where liquid water turns into vapor?

Answer: Evaporation

2. What do water vapor droplets form when they gather high up?

Answer: Clouds (condensation)

3. Name one form of precipitation.

Answer: Rain, snow, sleet or hail

Homework

- Draw the water cycle with all four labeled steps
- Write 3 sentences: how a puddle could become rain
- Find one water cycle example at home and describe it

Due
Thursday