

Water Cycle Sorting

Materials

- Water Cycle Terms
- 1 Water Cycle Sorting Mat
- 16 Water Cycle Example Cards
- 1 Water Cycle Sorting Answer Key



Directions for 2 to 4 Players

1. Review and discuss the definitions and examples on the Water Cycle Terms handout. How are condensation, evaporation, and precipitation alike and different?
2. Shuffle the 16 Water Cycle Example Cards and stack them face down in the box on the Water Cycle Sorting Mat.
3. Place the Answer Key face down next to the mat.
4. One person begins by flipping over an example card and reading it aloud. He or she identifies the card as precipitation, evaporation, or condensation. If everyone agrees, the card is placed face up in the box for that category.
5. If anyone disagrees, review the meanings of condensation, evaporation, and precipitation to decide which one best fits the example. Then place the card in the correct box.
6. The next person flips over the top water cycle example card on the stack. Follow the directions in steps 4 and 5.
7. Continue taking turns sorting the cards until all 16 water cycle examples are sorted into categories on the mat.
8. The person who places the last water cycle example card turns over the Answer Key and everyone checks the answers.

Water Cycle Terms

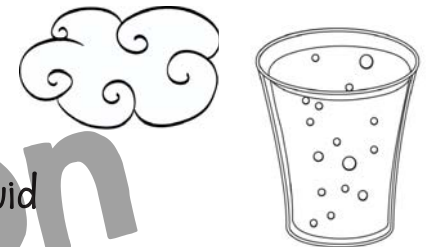
Precipitation

General name for any form of water falling through the air



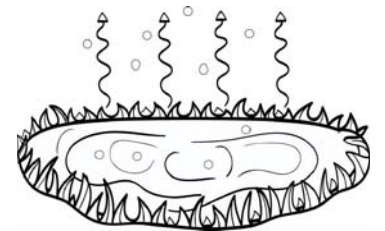
Condensation

Water changing from its gas form (water vapor) to a liquid



Evaporation

Water changing from a liquid to a gas (water vapor)



Water Cycle Sorting Mat

Precipitation

Stack
Water Cycle
Example Cards
Face Down
Here

Condensation

Evaporation

Water Cycle Example Cards - Set #1

Directions: Cut the example cards apart on the dashed lines.

1
Water droplets
forming on a glass
of cold lemonade

2
Steam rising from
a pot of boiling water

3
Rain falling from
stormy skies

4
A puddle of water
disappearing on
a hot sunny day

5
Coffee drying
in a mug

6
Fog on a car's
windshield

7
Icy sleet pelting
down during a
winter storm

8
Clothes drying
on a clothesline

Water Cycle Example Cards - Set #2

Directions: Cut the example cards apart on the dashed lines.

9

Wet mud becoming dry, cracked dirt

10

Moisture forming on cold sunglasses

11

Snowflakes in a blizzard swirling to the ground

12

Clouds forming when hot and cold air masses meet

13

Dew droplets on blades of grass

14

Hail produced by a thunderstorm

15

Morning drizzle on a winter day

16

Hair drying after a swim

Water Cycle Sorting Answer Key

Precipitation 3, 7, 11, 14, 15

Evaporation 4, 5, 8, 9, 16

Condensation 1, 2, 6, 10, 12, 13

Water Cycle Sorting Answer Key

Precipitation 3, 7, 11, 14, 15

Evaporation 4, 5, 8, 9, 16

Condensation 1, 2, 6, 10, 12, 13

Water Cycle Sorting Answer Key

Precipitation 3, 7, 11, 14, 15

Evaporation 4, 5, 8, 9, 16

Condensation 1, 2, 6, 10, 12, 13

Name _____

Date _____

Water Cycle Terms Review

Directions: Write the letter **P**, **E**, or **C** in front of each example to identify it as **Precipitation**, **Evaporation**, or **Condensation**.

- ____ 1. Steam rising from boiling water
- ____ 2. Rain drops falling from clouds
- ____ 3. Fog forming on a window
- ____ 4. Snowflakes drifting down
- ____ 5. A puddle of water disappearing
- ____ 6. Water drops on a cold glass
- ____ 7. Hailstones dropping from the sky
- ____ 8. Sweat drying from your skin
- ____ 9. Morning fog over a lake
- ____ 10. A beach towel drying in the sun

Name _____

Date _____

Water Cycle Terms Review

Directions: Write the letter **P**, **E**, or **C** in front of each example to identify it as **Precipitation**, **Evaporation**, or **Condensation**.

- ____ 1. Steam rising from boiling water
- ____ 2. Rain drops falling from clouds
- ____ 3. Fog forming on a window
- ____ 4. Snowflakes drifting down
- ____ 5. A puddle of water disappearing
- ____ 6. Water drops on a cold glass
- ____ 7. Hailstones dropping from the sky
- ____ 8. Sweat drying from your skin
- ____ 9. Morning fog over a lake
- ____ 10. A beach towel drying in the sun

Answer Key

Water Cycle Terms Review

Directions: Write the letter **P**, **E**, or **C** in front of each example to identify it as **Precipitation**, **Evaporation**, or **Condensation**.

- C 1. Steam rising from boiling water
- P 2. Rain drops falling from clouds
- C 3. Fog forming on a window
- P 4. Snowflakes drifting down
- E 5. A puddle of water disappearing
- C 6. Water drops on a cold glass
- P 7. Hailstones dropping from the sky
- E 8. Sweat drying from your skin
- C 9. Morning fog over a lake
- E 10. A beach towel drying in the sun

Answer Key

Water Cycle Terms Review

Directions: Write the letter **P**, **E**, or **C** in front of each example to identify it as **Precipitation**, **Evaporation**, or **Condensation**.

- C 1. Steam rising from boiling water
- P 2. Rain drops falling from clouds
- C 3. Fog forming on a window
- P 4. Snowflakes drifting down
- E 5. A puddle of water disappearing
- C 6. Water drops on a cold glass
- P 7. Hailstones dropping from the sky
- E 8. Sweat drying from your skin
- C 9. Morning fog over a lake
- E 10. A beach towel drying in the sun