

The Water Cycle

Chapter 8: A Journey through States of Water · Topic 2

Key Concept

Plants also contribute to this cycle through a process called transpiration, where water absorbed by roots evaporates from leaves into the atmosphere. Some precipitation flows over land as surface runoff into rivers and eventually back to the ocean, while some soaks into the ground as groundwater, which can later resurface through springs or be used by plants. This continuous cycle ensures that fresh water is constantly redistributed around the planet, supporting all life on Earth.

Quick Revision Notes

- Water cycle stages: evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.
- The Sun's heat drives evaporation from oceans, rivers, and lakes.
- Transpiration is water vapour released from plant leaves.
- Runoff and groundwater return water to rivers, oceans, and underground reserves.

Practice Questions

- 1 Draw and label the water cycle, including evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.
- 2 Explain the role of the Sun in driving the water cycle.
- 3 What is the difference between surface runoff and groundwater?