

**Set 3. Earth Sciences (Earth's Water): *The Water Cycle*****The Water Cycle**

The **water cycle** is the process of water moving through the environment.

This happens when water from clouds falls as some sort of **precipitation** (depending on the air temperature), soaks into the ground or falls into rivers, lakes, streams, or in the ocean. Water then evaporates into the air, rises high in the atmosphere, and continues the cycle again.

*"Sometimes the water cycle is called the 'hydrologic cycle'."*

*"These two terms mean the same thing."*

*"'Hydro' is a prefix that we find in a lot of science words. When you see it, it means the word has something to do with water."*

*"It's from the Greek word 'hydor' which means 'water'!"*



The diagram to the right shows how water changes its states of matter and allows water to move through the environment in the **water cycle**.

