

## EARTH'S WATERS

### Water, water, EVERYWHERE

Did you know that **three quarters (3/4) of Earth** is covered by **water**? That is a lot of water!!



### Freshwater

Most of the water on Earth is saltwater; very little of it is freshwater. What is **freshwater**? Freshwater is water that has a very little amount of salt.

The Earth has lakes, rivers, and streams on its surface, in the form of

Two percent of the water on Earth is frozen in ice caps and glaciers. However, it is not usable since it is frozen.

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**Ice caps** are a thick permanent covering of ice and snow on land.

**Freshwater** is **essential** to humans because we use it for drinking and watering crops.

**Lesson Checkpoint:**  
**Why is freshwater essential to us?**

## So Much Saltwater....

Oceans are made of **salt water**. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the Earth's water is saltwater.

There are five named **oceans** of the world, which include the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and Arctic Oceans. **Salt water** is not usable water because we can't drink it or use it for crops.

## More about the Ocean....

- **Ocean currents** keep our oceans in **constant motion** and move large amounts of water far distances.
- **Ocean tides** are periodic rising and falling of the surface of the ocean caused by the gravitational pulls of the moon as well as the rotation of the Earth.



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## *Lesson Checkpoint: What causes the ocean tides?*

### **Did you know that the Earth recycles...WATER?**

The water cycle is the **constant movement of the Earth's water** from the Earth's surface to the atmosphere and the back again. Throughout the water cycle, **water** can be solid, liquid, and a gas. The **sun** powers the water cycle, because heat is what keeps the cycle going.

## Stages of the Water Cycle:



🌐 **Evaporation:** the changing of a **liquid into a gas**

Evaporation occurs when the sun warms the water in a body of water and some of the water changes into water vapor which rises off the water and goes into the air.



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🌐 **Transpiration:** the process by which plants give off **water vapor** into the air through their leaves.



🌐 **Condensation:** the **changing of a gas**, when cooled, back into a **liquid**

🌐 **Precipitation:** how the water gets back to the earth, through hail, mist, rain, sleet, or snow.



**Water run off** is the water that falls back to earth as precipitation, and runs off of hills and mountains into lakes, rivers, and oceans.

Some water ends up on land and soaks into the ground, which is called **groundwater**.



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### ***Lesson Checkpoint: What is the water cycle?***

**Unfortunately, sometimes water can be polluted...**

**Water pollution** causes water to be contaminated with harmful substances. Industrial waste, water run off from farms filled with pesticides and fertilizer, untreated sewage drains, and air pollution are all causes of water pollution.

### ***Lesson Checkpoint: What is one cause of water pollution?***