




Year 3 and 4 Knowledge Organiser - The Water Cycle

Key vocab		The water cycle is a physical process that happens on the surface of the Earth and in the Earth's atmosphere.
Atmosphere	the gases that surround a planet	<p>A cloud is a large group of tiny water droplets that we can see in the air. Clouds are formed when water on Earth evaporates into the sky and condenses high up in the cooler air. Rain, snow, sleet and hail falling from clouds is called precipitation. Only the lower clouds give precipitation; the cumulonimbus cloud creates thunder and lightning storms. The prefix 'nimbo' and the suffix 'nimbus' mean that the cloud produces precipitation.</p> 
continuous	happening all of the time without any breaks	

precipitation:	rain, snow, sleet or hail falling from clouds	Sticky Knowledge	
-----------------------	---	-------------------------	--

cumulonimbus:	thunder clouds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water cycle describes the movement of water on the surface and in the atmosphere of the Earth. It is a continuous process that is made up of five steps: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main cloud types include stratus, cumulus and cirrus.
stratus:	featureless rain clouds in layers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water from oceans, seas, rivers and lakes evaporates and rises into the air as a vapour. Evaporation is the process of water turning into a vapour. It is caused by the heat of the sun. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stratus clouds are dark and featureless, creating grey skies.

cumulus:	small puffy clouds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the vapour rises, it cools and condenses from a vapour to a liquid to form clouds. This process is called condensation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulus clouds are puffy, like cotton wool floating in the sky.
cirrus:	thin wispy clouds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the clouds become heavy, precipitation occurs. This is the process of liquid falling from the clouds as rain, snow, sleet or hail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cirrus clouds are thin and wispy, and appear high in the sky.

run-off	Water that travels on the surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This creates run-off, which is water that travels on the surface and collects in bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, oceans and seas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are also variations of these three main cloud types
cloud	a visible mass of condensed watery vapour floating in the atmosphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes this water is soaked into the ground. This process is called percolation and involves the water flowing downward under the layers of the soil. This ends the water cycle, which then starts again. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These variations include altostratus, altocumulus, nimbostratus, cumulonimbus and cirrocumulus.

Exciting books!

