

The water cycle

Stage 1

Exploring how all water moves endlessly through the water cycle



Sydney
WATER

Lesson 1

The natural water cycle

Activity 1: Wondering about water

Does water disappear?



Have are clouds made?





Is rain new water?

How does water move from the Earth to the clouds and back?



Lesson 1

The natural water cycle!

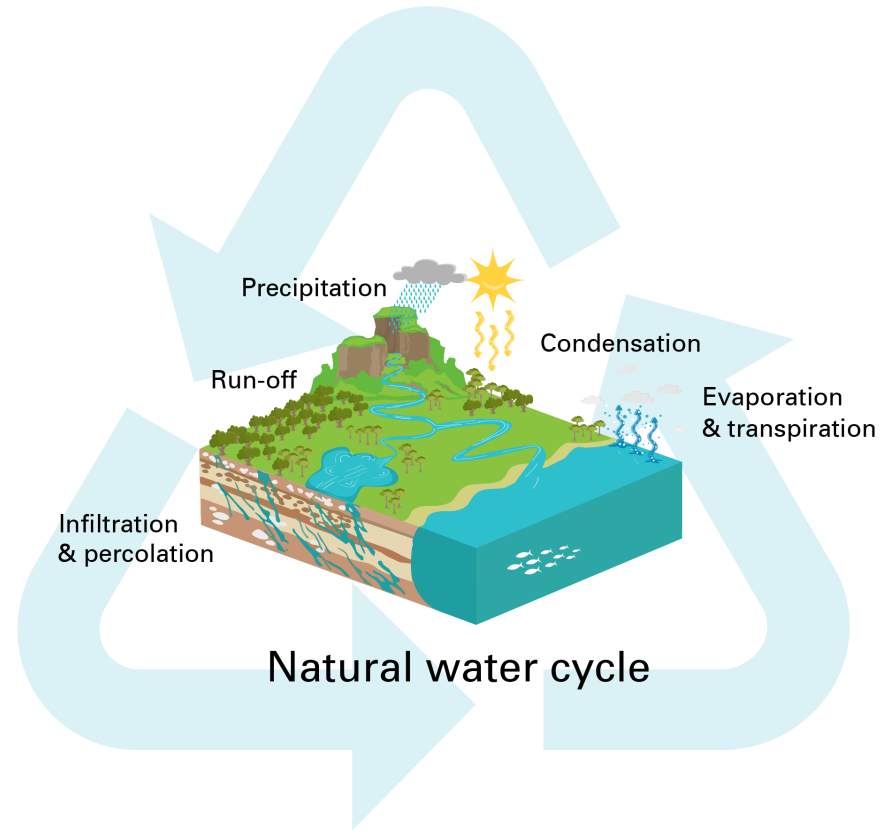
Activity 2: What is the natural water cycle?

Did you know?

All the water on the Earth is all that we have.

It moves from the Earth to the sky and back again every day, all the time.

It goes round and round in an endless cycle called the natural water cycle.



Can you guess how old water is?

There's never new water and water doesn't disappear.



It's billions of years old!

There is never new water. In fact...

saber tooth tigers
drank this water



sharks, whales and goldfish
swam in this water

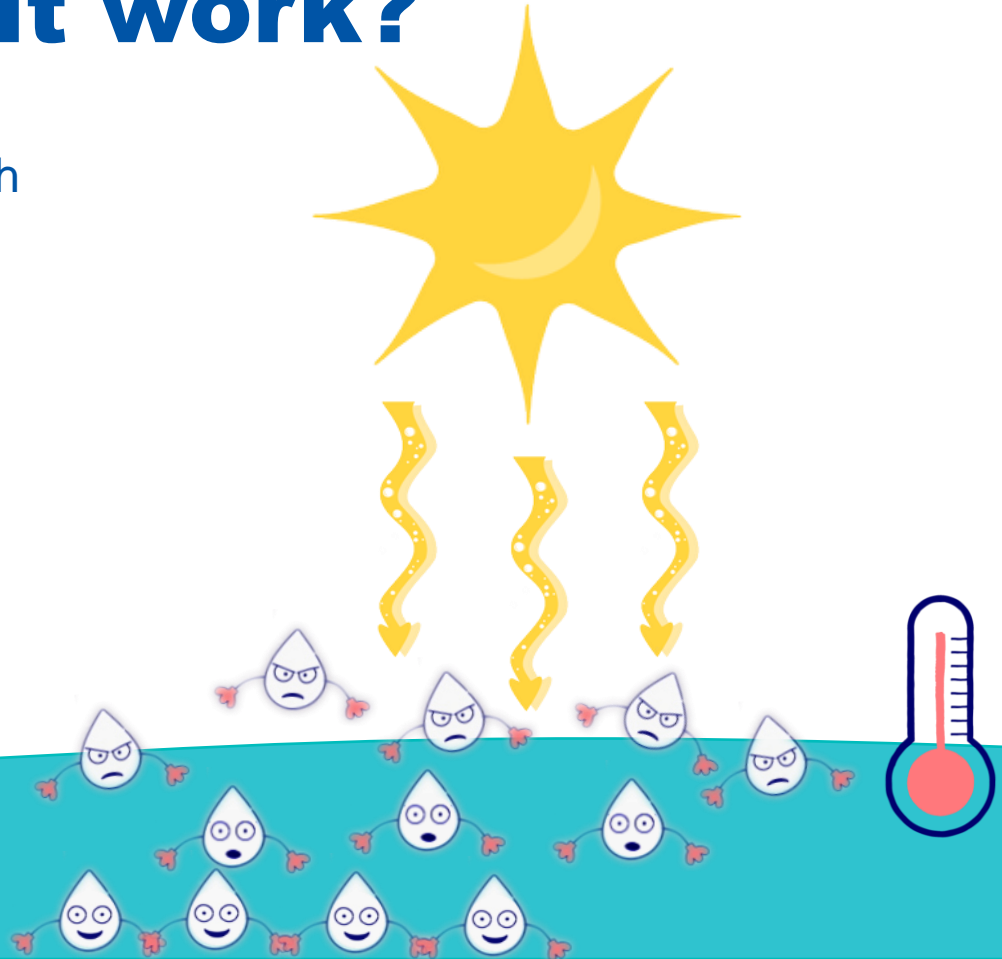


dinosaurs
drank this water



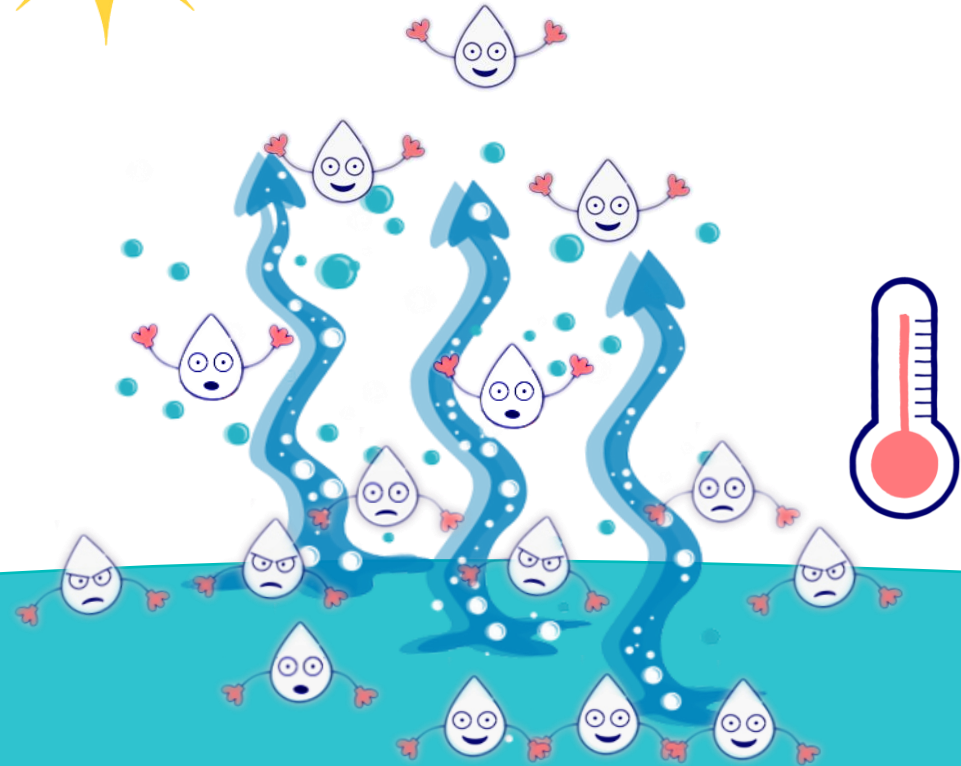
So how does it work?

The natural water cycle starts with the sun. When the sun shines it heats the water on Earth.



Evaporation...

is when the sun heats the water, the water droplets are too hot to stick together and turn into gas called water vapour.



Transpiration...

is when the sun warms people, plants and animals.

When we sweat or breathe, we release small amounts of water vapour into the air too.



Did you know?

A gum tree can transpire (release) up to 200L of water everyday!

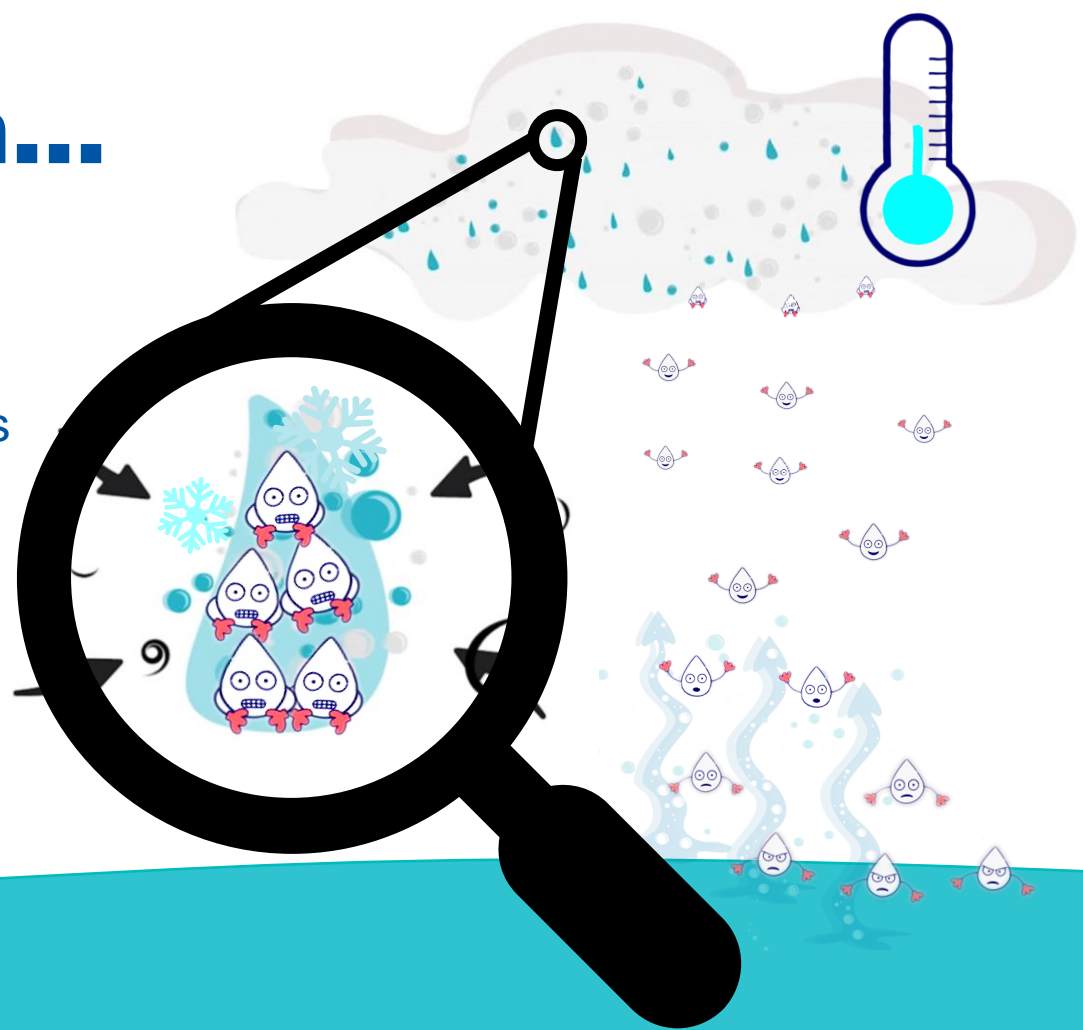
That's 100 milk bottles of water.

Trees can help make clouds - think about **rainforests**.



Condensation...

is when water vapour rises in the air and cools to form tiny water droplets that stick together. This is how a cloud is made.



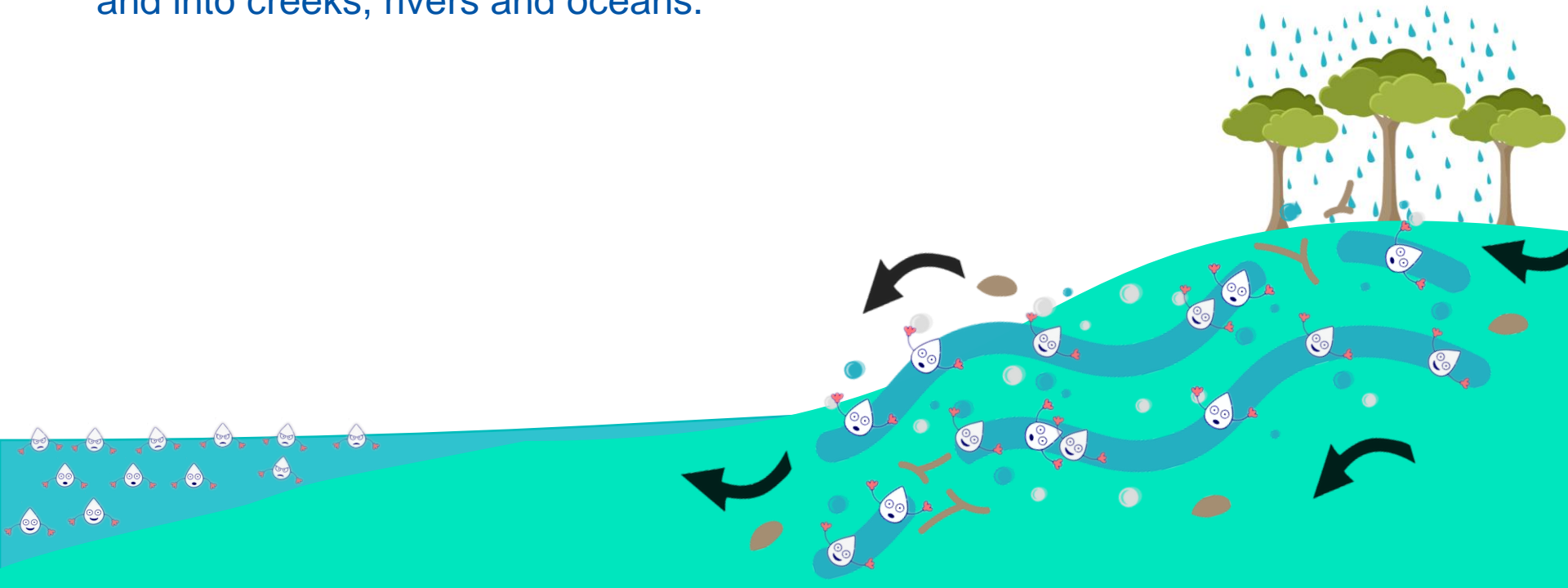
Precipitation...

is when the clouds are so heavy with water droplets they fall as rain, snow or hail.



Run-off...

is when water flows over the ground and into creeks, rivers and oceans.



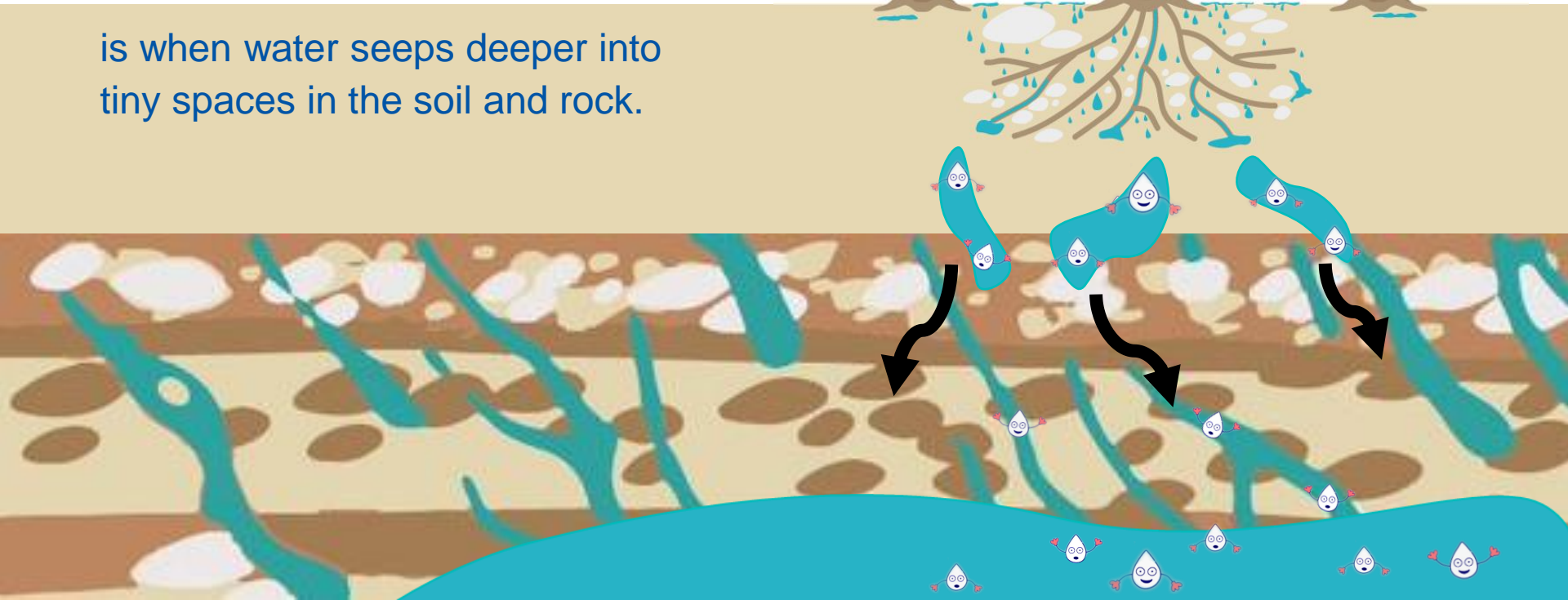
Infiltration...

is when water falls on the ground and soaks into soil.



Percolation...

is when water seeps deeper into tiny spaces in the soil and rock.



Water cycle song

by Monica Sheba

(To the tune of “She’ll be comin’ round the mountain”.)

Water goes round in a circle, yes it does

(use finger to draw a large circle in the air)

Water goes round in a circle, yes it does

(repeat motion)

It goes up as evaporation

(raise arms with palms up)

And makes clouds and condensation

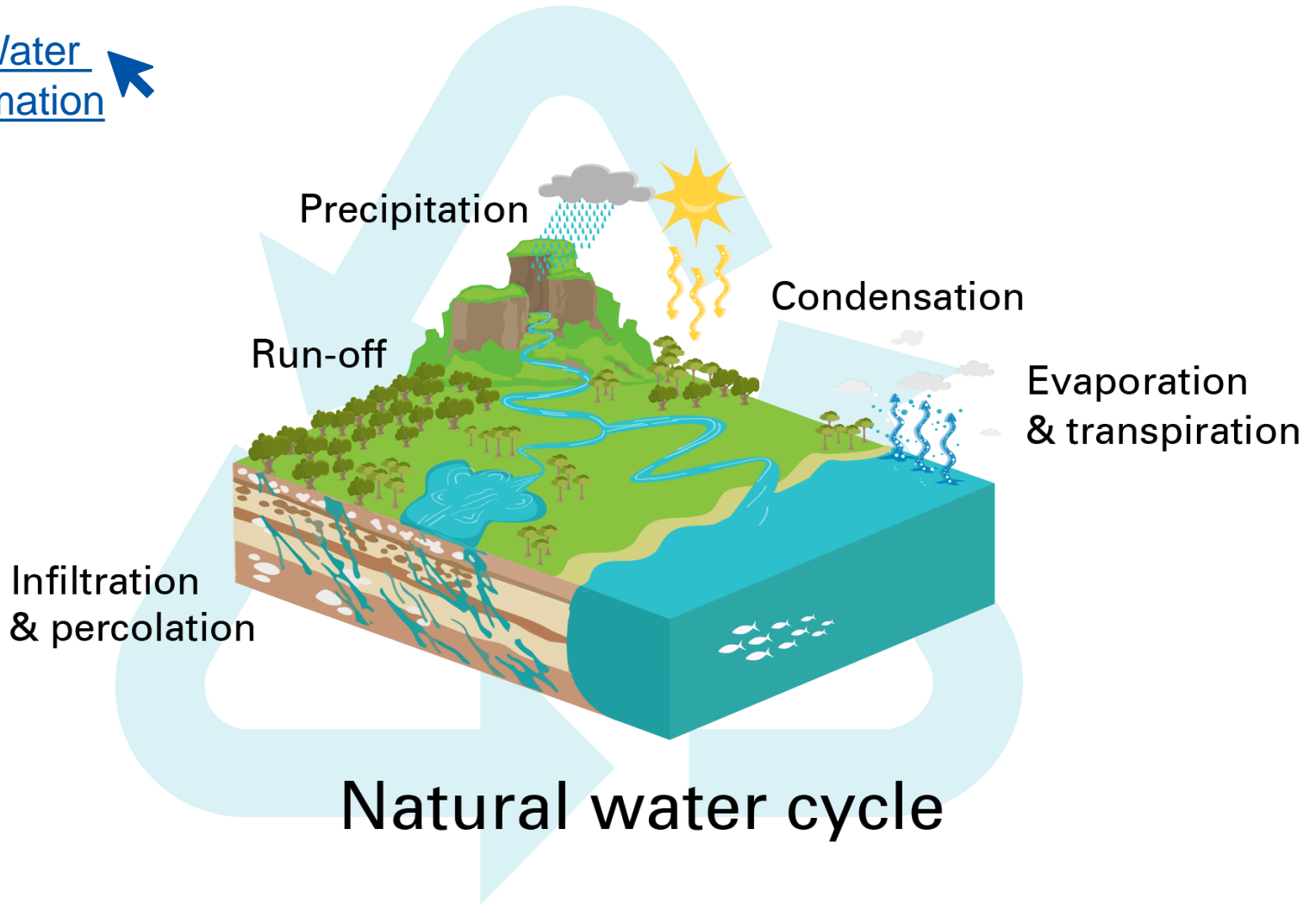
(bring hands above head to form a cloud shape)

Then falls down as precipitation, yes it does

(slowly lower hands, wiggling fingers)



[Sydney Water
Cycle Animation](#) 



Natural water cycle

Lesson 2

Water cycle experiments

Activity 1: Demonstration – Can you make a cloud?

What are clouds? What are they made of?

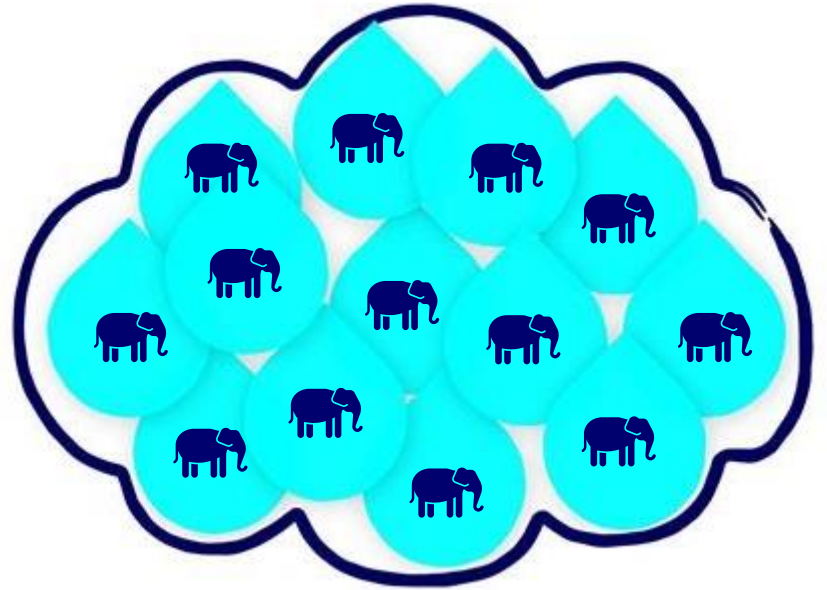


Did you know?

Clouds are made up of squillions of tiny water droplets.

The average cloud weighs about 500 tonnes (500,000 kg).

That's about 100 elephants!



Let's make a cloud...

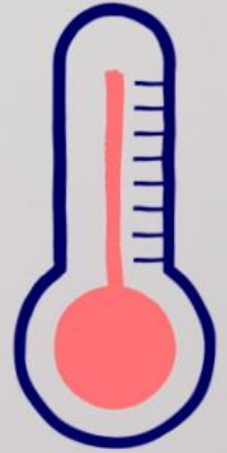
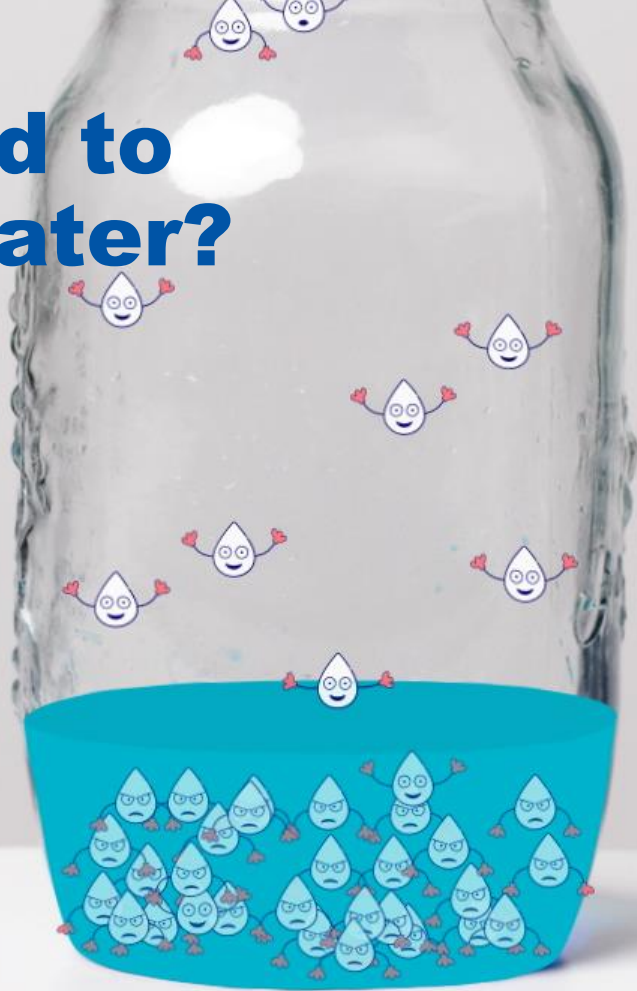
and watch a part of the water cycle in action



[Make a cloud experiment](#) 

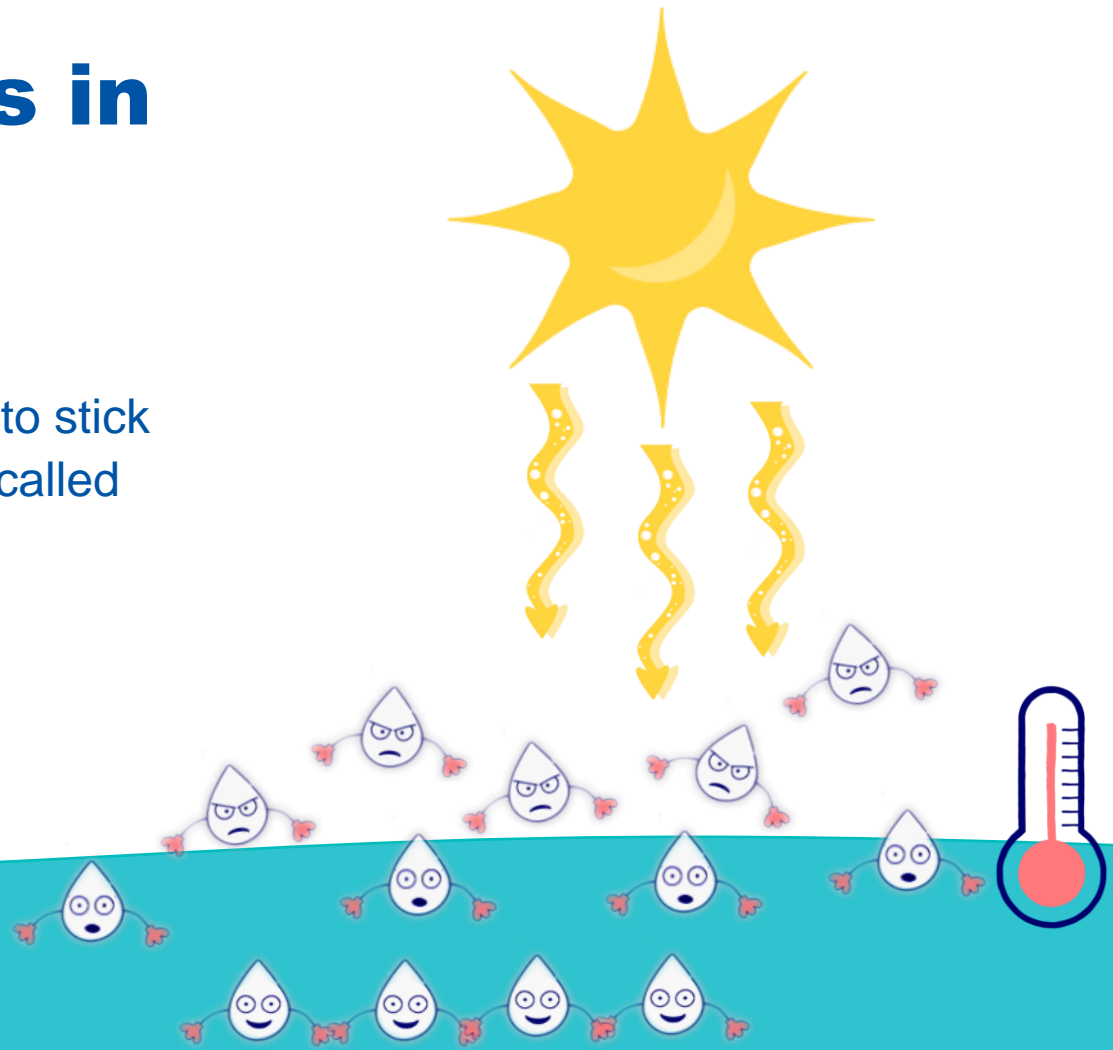
What happened to the warmed water?

Water droplets are too hot to stick together and turn into gas called water vapour.

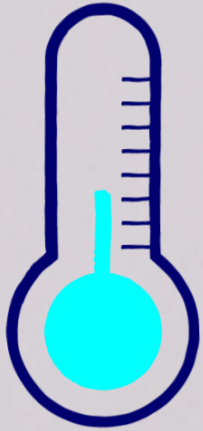


This happens in nature too

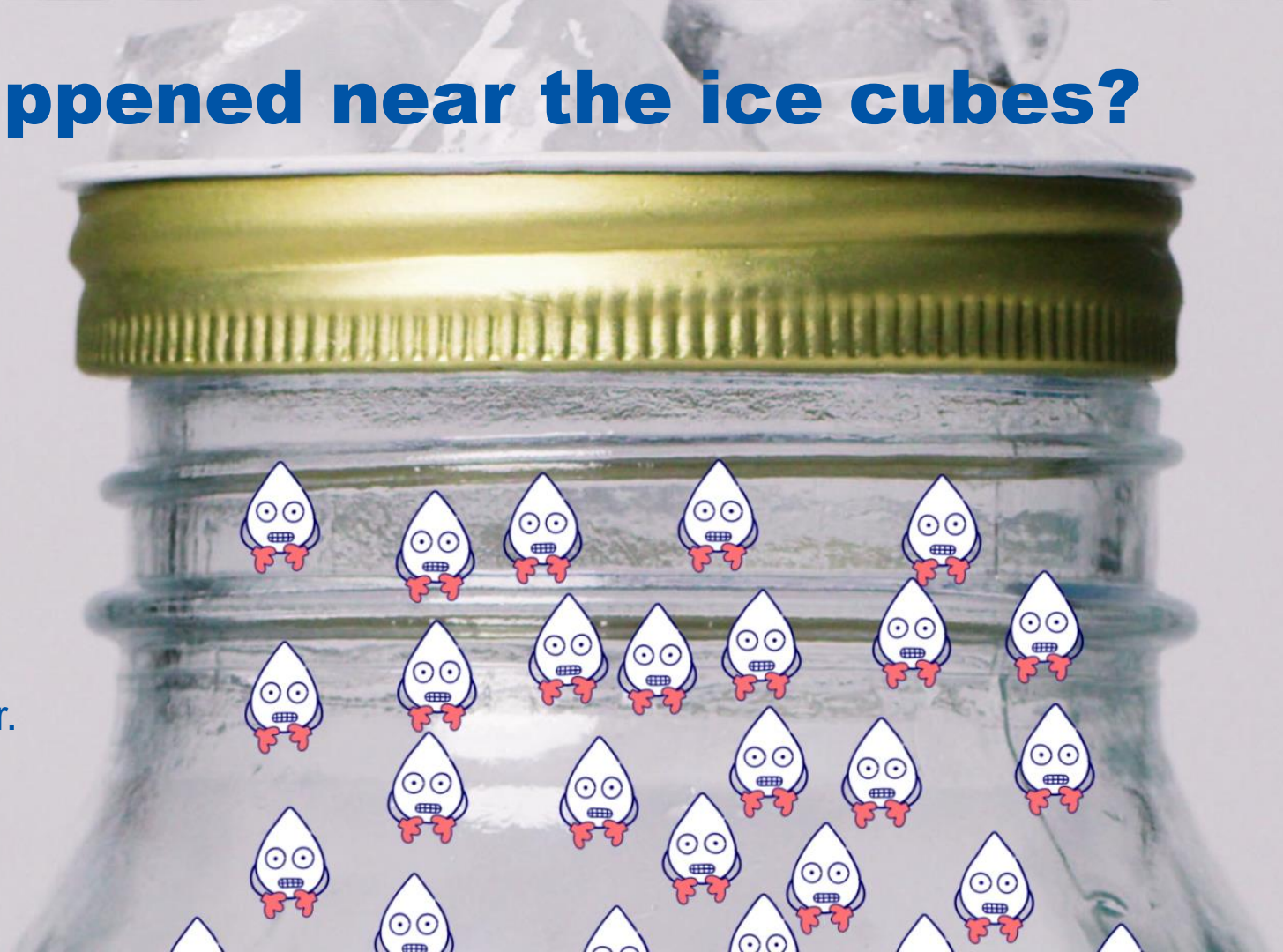
Water droplets are too hot to stick together and turn into gas called water vapour.



What happened near the ice cubes?

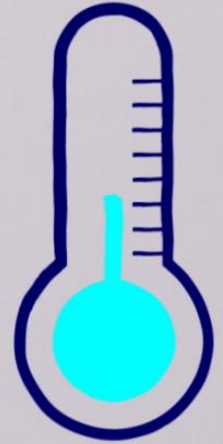


The ice cooled
the water vapour.



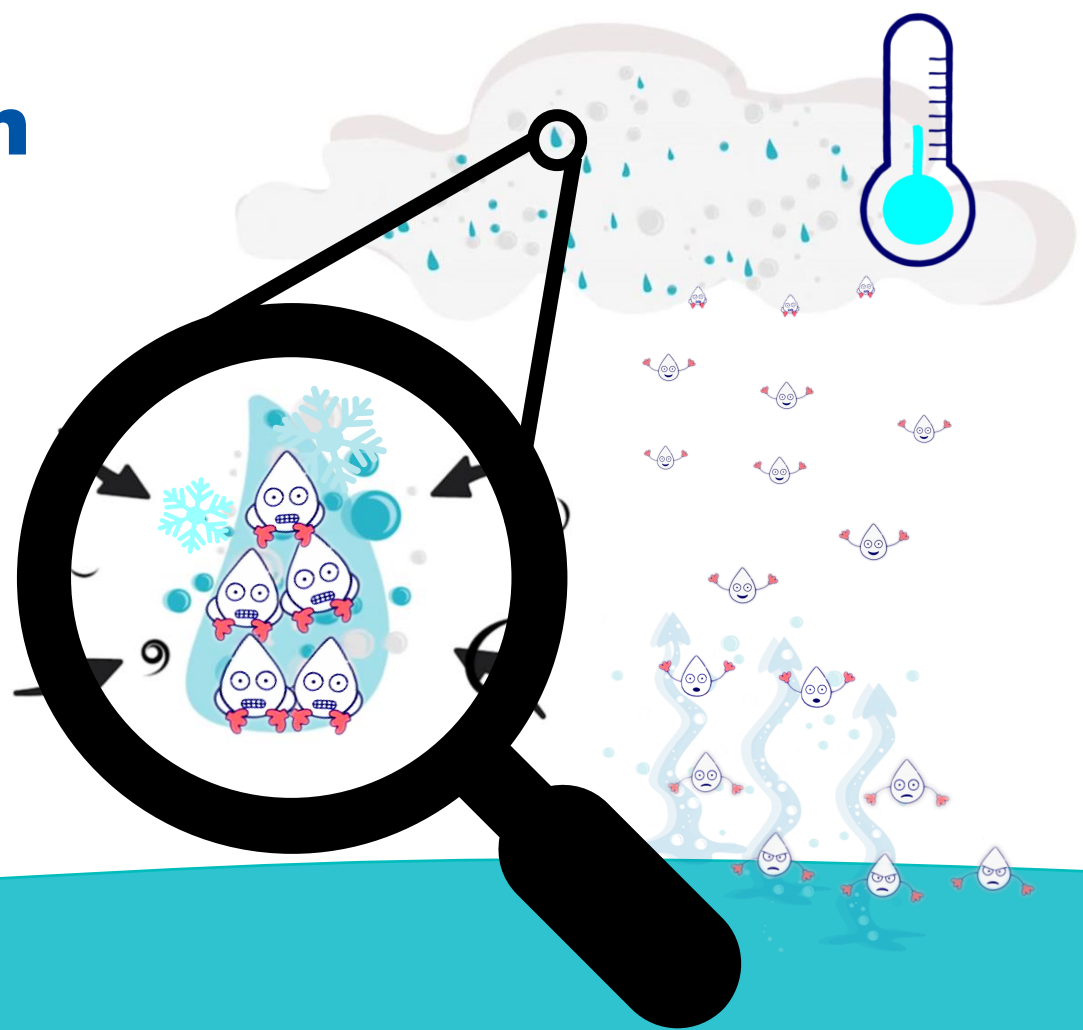
Condensation

The water vapour turned into tiny water droplets that stick together.



This happens in nature too

When water vapour rises in the air, it cools and forms tiny water droplets that stick together. This is how a cloud is made.



Lesson 2

Water cycle experiments

Activity 1: Practical investigation – Does water disappear?

Let's see if water evaporates













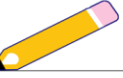



Measure and compare

[Water evaporation experiment](#) 

Plan an investigation

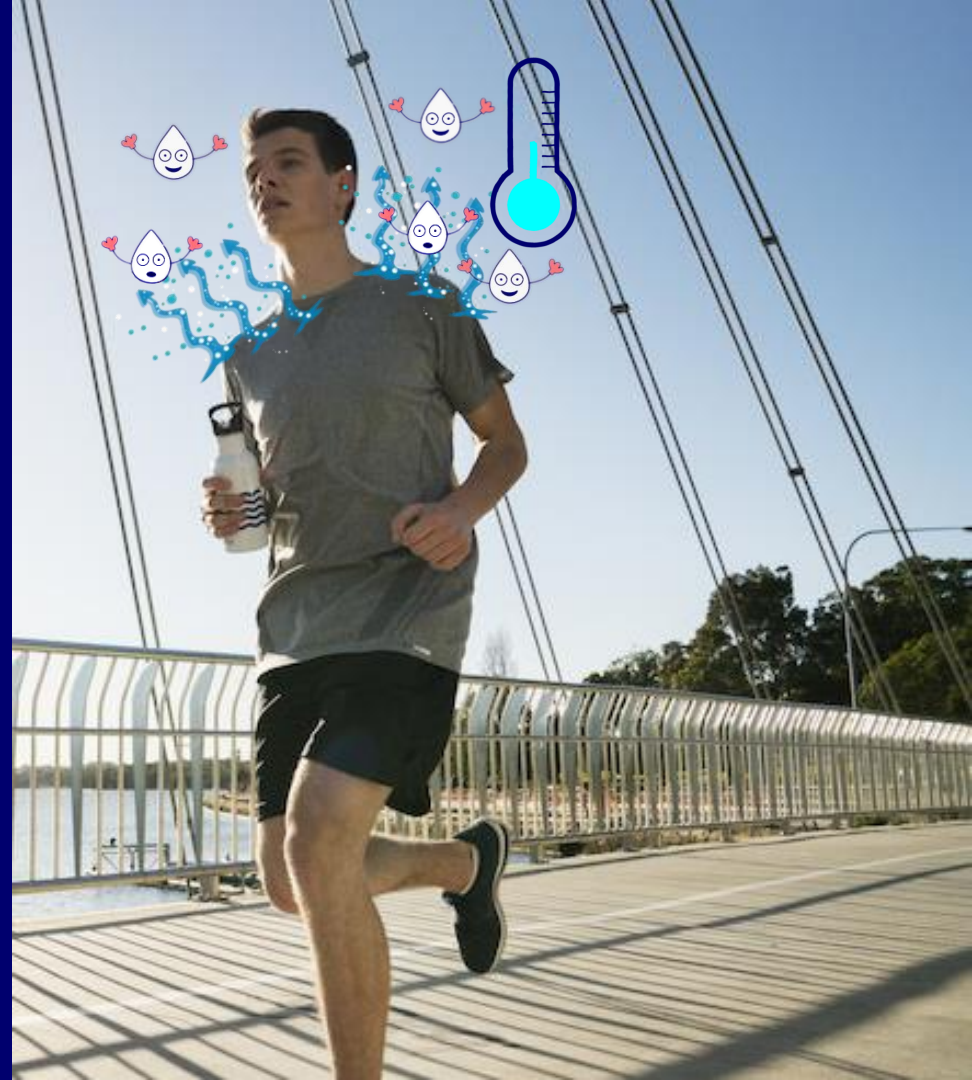
Experiment title: *Water evaporation experiment*

<p>1 questions What am I going to investigate (try to find out)? <i>How fast/much will the water evaporate (float away)?</i></p> 	<p>2 hypothesis What do I think will happen (prediction)? Why?</p> 	<p>3 materials What materials (things) will I use?</p> 
<p>4 method How will I use my materials? Draw or take photos to help explain.</p> 	<p>5 hazards What are some hazards? (things that could cause harm)</p> 	<p>6 risks What can I do to reduce risks? (chance that hazards cause harm)</p> 
<p>7 observation What did I... see smell hear feel taste?</p>      	<p>8 conclusion What did I find out? Did my prediction come true? Why or why not?</p> 	<p>9 questions What questions do I have now? What do I want to know more about?</p> 

Did you know?

**Evaporation and
transpiration helps us keep
cool!**

When liquid water like sweat
turns to water vapour (gas) it
cools the air around us.



Lesson 3

The urban water cycle

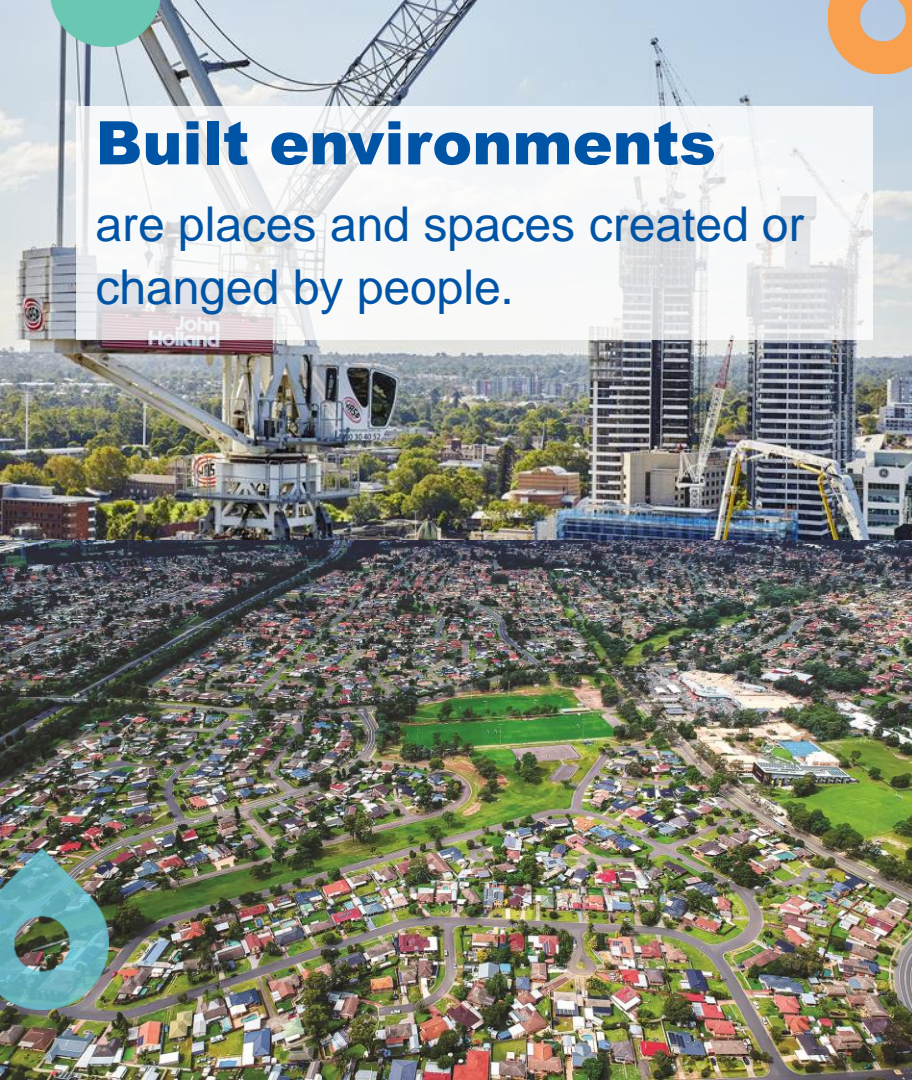
Activity 1: What is the urban water cycle?

Natural environments
are the living and non-living things
found naturally in a space or place.



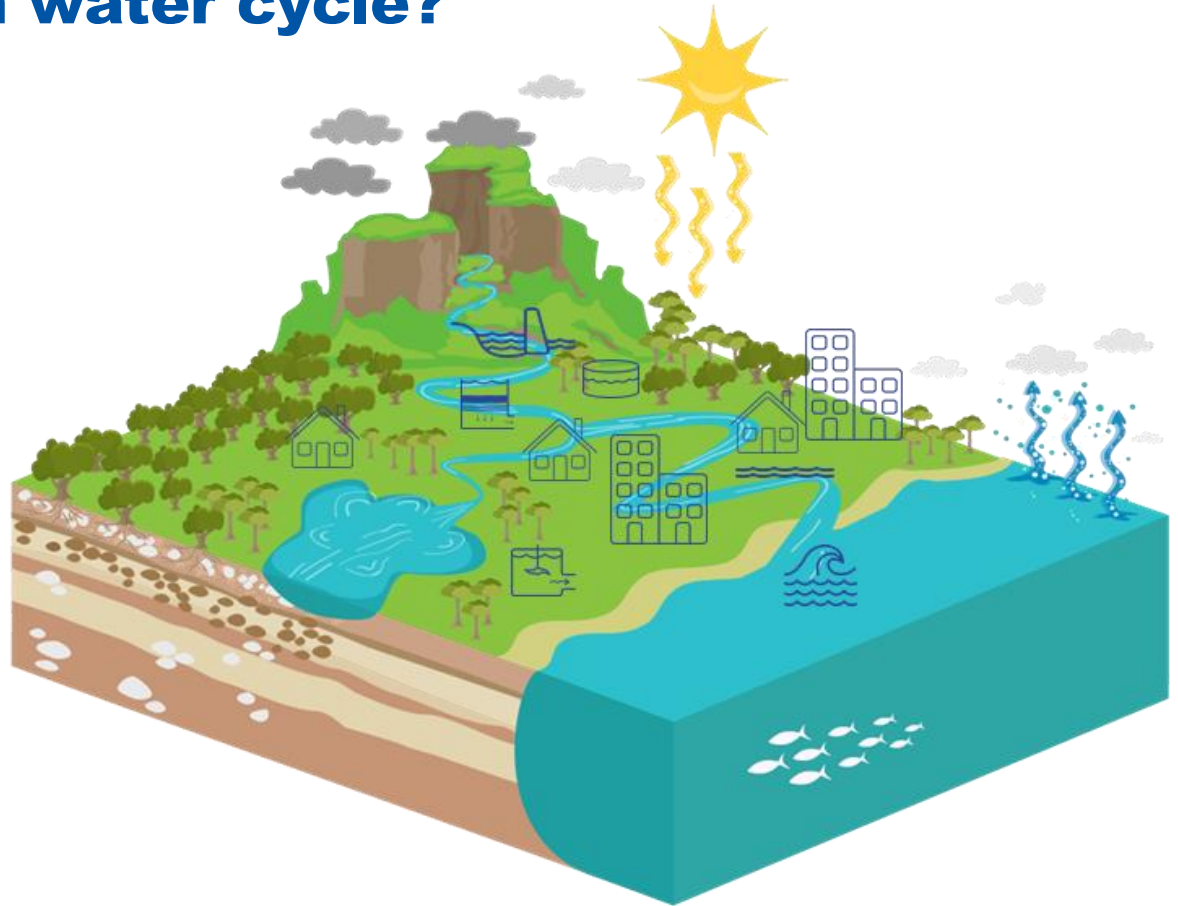
Built environments

are places and spaces created or changed by people.



What is the urban water cycle?

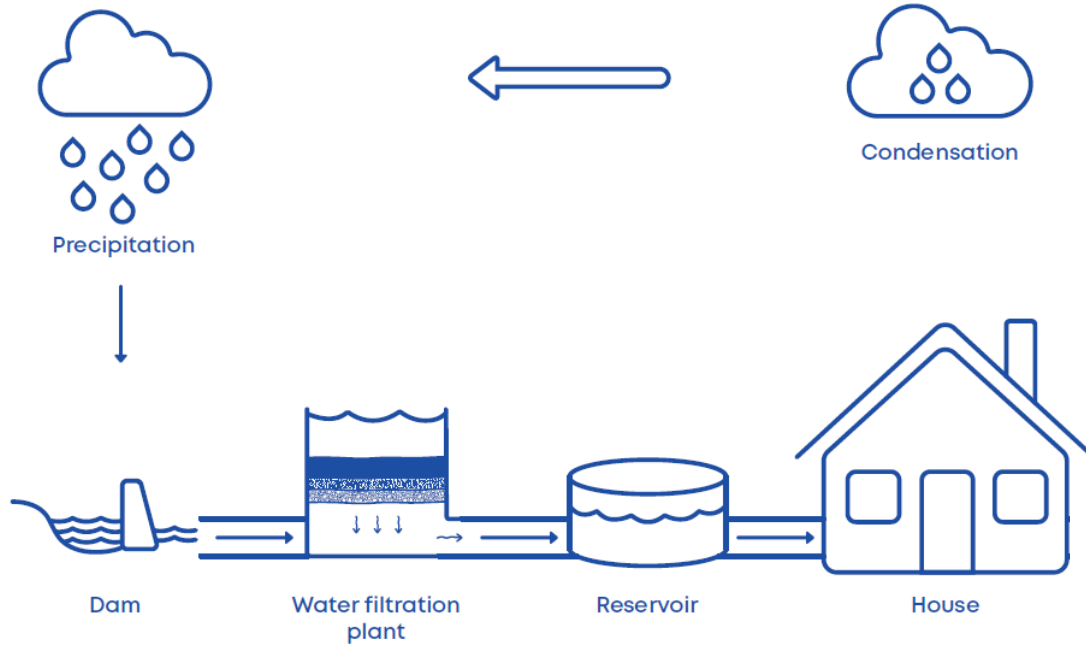
It's when we change and manage the natural water cycle to meet our water needs.



We change the water cycle so we can...



Where does our water come from?



Dams



We build dams to store rainwater.



Oceans



We can also get water from oceans by removing the salt.




Other sources of water

We can also get water from rivers, recycled water, rainwater and groundwater.

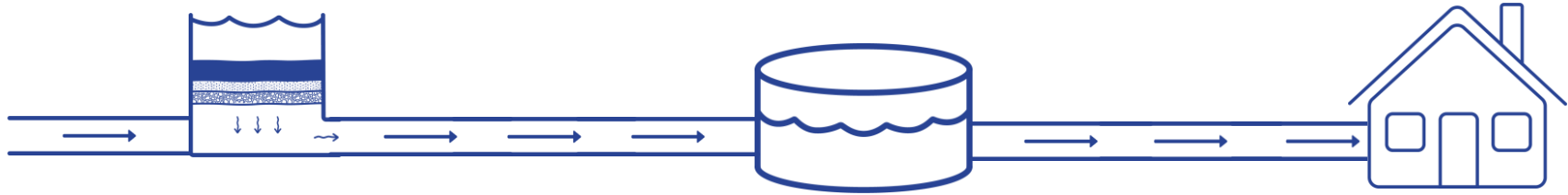
 rivers

 recycled water

 other sources



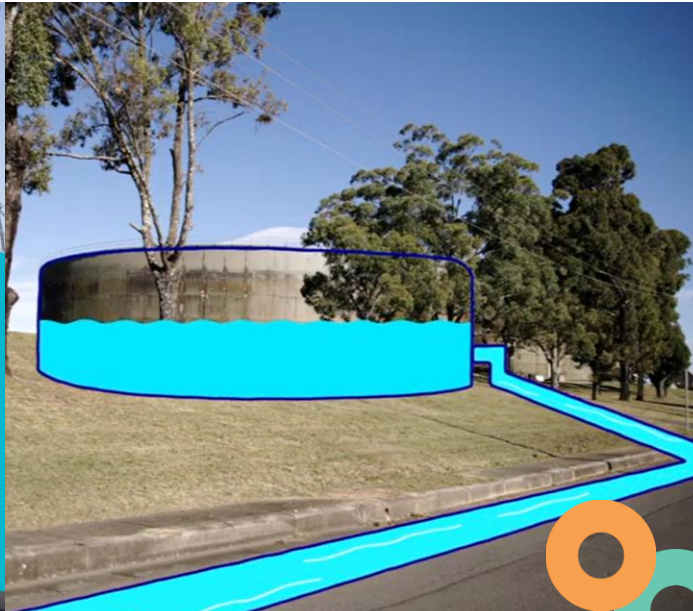
Is our water cleaned? How does it get to us?



Water filtration plant
cleans and filters all our drinking water

Reservoir stores our clean drinking water

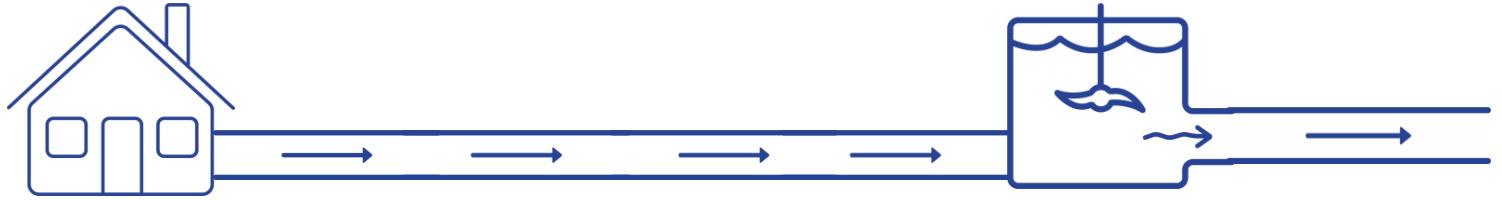
Our homes



What happens after we use our water? Where does it go?



Our used water gets cleaned...



Used water goes down drains

and gets cleaned at a Water recycling plant



and can be used again...



recycled water



rivers



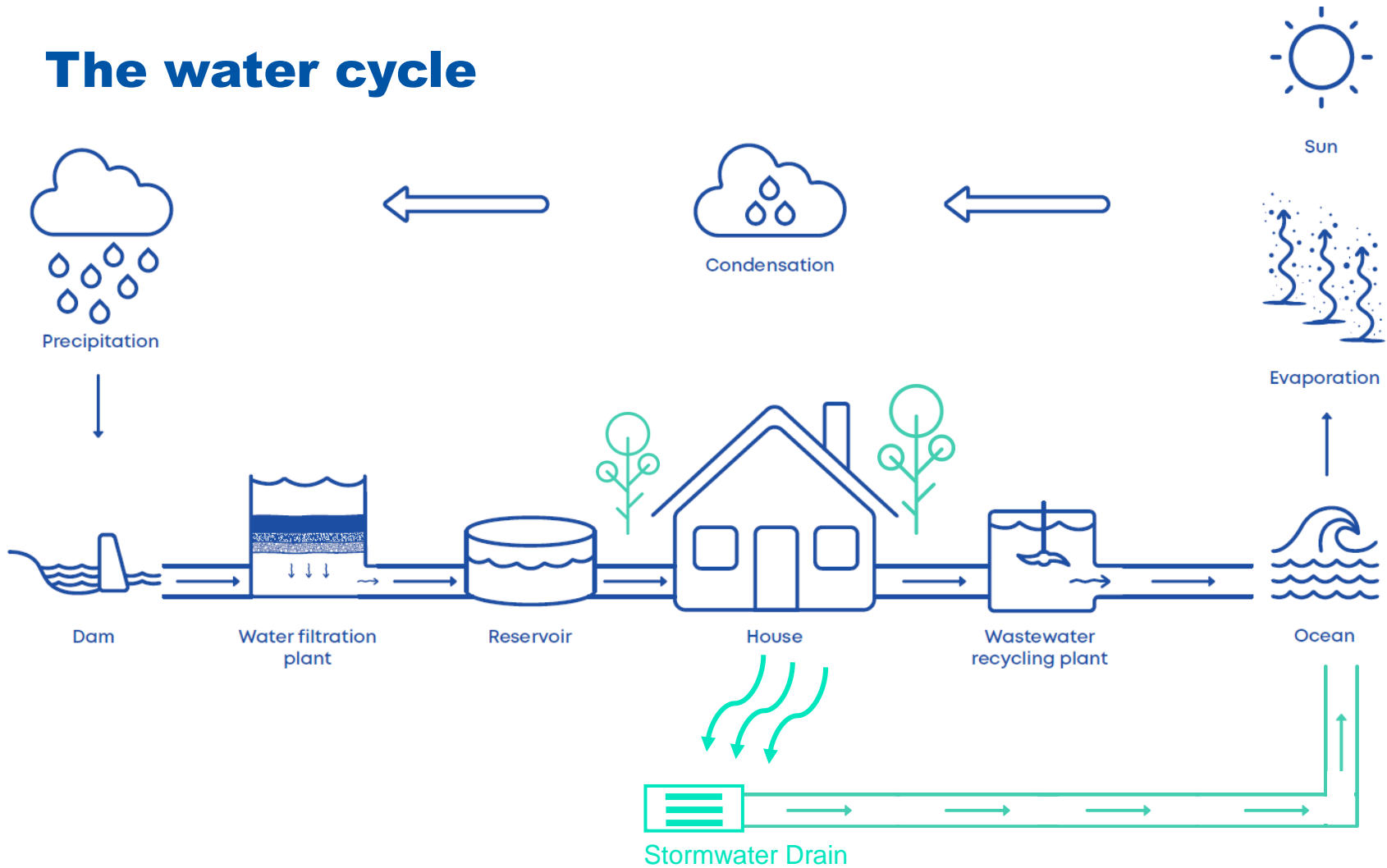
ocean



Where does water (stormwater) outside our homes go?



The water cycle



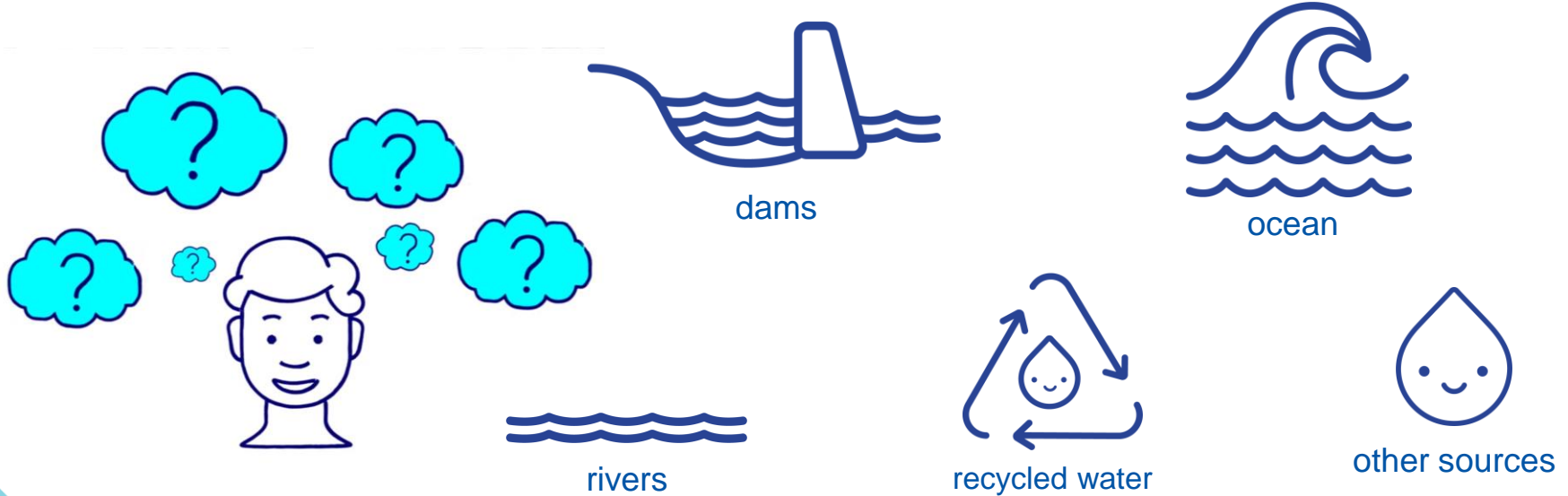
Lesson 3

The urban water cycle

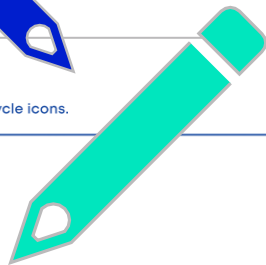
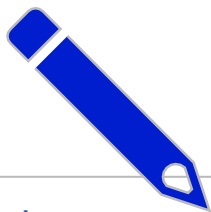
Activity 1: What's my urban water cycle

Where does your water come from?

Check on our [Water network website](#) 

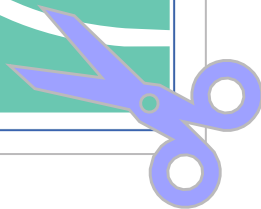
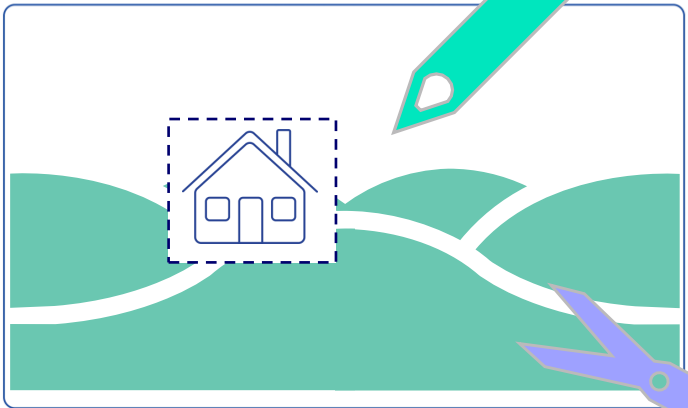


Build your own water cycle!



Create your water cycle

Draw and colour a landscape. Paste on your water cycle icons.



What I learned about water

Write or draw in a droplet.

