

THE WATER CYCLE ACTIVITY SHEET

The water cycle is made up of the processes of evaporation, transpiration, condensation and precipitation.

EVAPORATION

Water from the sea rises into the sky during a process called evaporation. We do not see the water rising because the water has turned into vapour which is almost invisible. Water vapour is just like steam from boiling a kettle.

TRANSPIRATION

Water also rises up into the air from plants. Plants take up water through their roots and pass moisture back to the air through their leaves. This is called transpiration.

CONDENSATION

In the sky, when the air cannot hold all of the water vapour it contains, the extra vapour turns into droplets of water and appears again as fog, mist or clouds. This process is called condensation. When these droplets become too heavy they fall.

PRECIPITATION

Water falls from the sky as rain, snow or hail, this is called precipitation. The water flows into creeks and rivers and then into the sea. Water can also soak underground and be stored naturally in underground basins. The underground water and water from rivers ends up in the sea, and so the cycle begins once again.

People all around the world interrupt the water cycle by catching and storing it for use. The area which catches and stores water is called a catchment.

Hunter Water is responsible for supplying the Lower Hunter community with a reliable and healthy supply of water.

There are three sources of water for people who live in the Lower Hunter:

- Dam Catchments** - Chichester and Grahamstown Dams
- Groundwater Catchments** - Tomago and Tomaree Sandbeds
- River Catchments** - Patterson, Allyn and Williams Rivers



The illustration above shows the processes of the water cycle.

Add the following words to the arrows on the illustration:

- Evaporation
- Transpiration
- Condensation
- Precipitation