

Read the following story to your students and then have them use clues from the story to construct a water cycle diagram.

Drip's Journey

One day a water droplet named Drip was swimming lazily in the ocean.



As the sun rose, he began to feel warm and noticed he was floating up toward the sky. His friend Drop looked at him and said, “Yeah! We are evaporating!” They rose high up into the sky. “What a great view,” he thought.

Soon, he began to get cold. “Hey Drop,” he shouted, “Why is it getting so cold?” “We are condensing,” said Drop, “Soon we will form a cloud.”

The cloud grew heavy as many drips and drops came together. They began to fall to the earth as precipitation. “Precipitation is water falling to the earth in the form of rain, snow, hail, or sleet,” Drop explained.

It was Drip's turn to fall. SPLAT! He landed in a stream. Some of his friends infiltrated into the ground and became groundwater. Others fell on concrete and stayed in puddles until the sun came out and evaporated them again. Some even became runoff, flowing downhill over the surface of the earth directly to a stream.

Soon, Drip was moving slower, and everything was salty. “It seems like I have been here before,” Drip thought. “Of course you have,” said a familiar voice. It was Drop! “We are always traveling through the water cycle, and now we are back in the ocean. It could be a while before we evaporate again, but when we do, it will be a great adventure!”



After reading about Drip's journey through the water cycle, fill out the places he went and the things he did in the picture using the words below.

Precipitation Condensation Evaporation
Infiltration Runoff Lakes & Streams Groundwater

