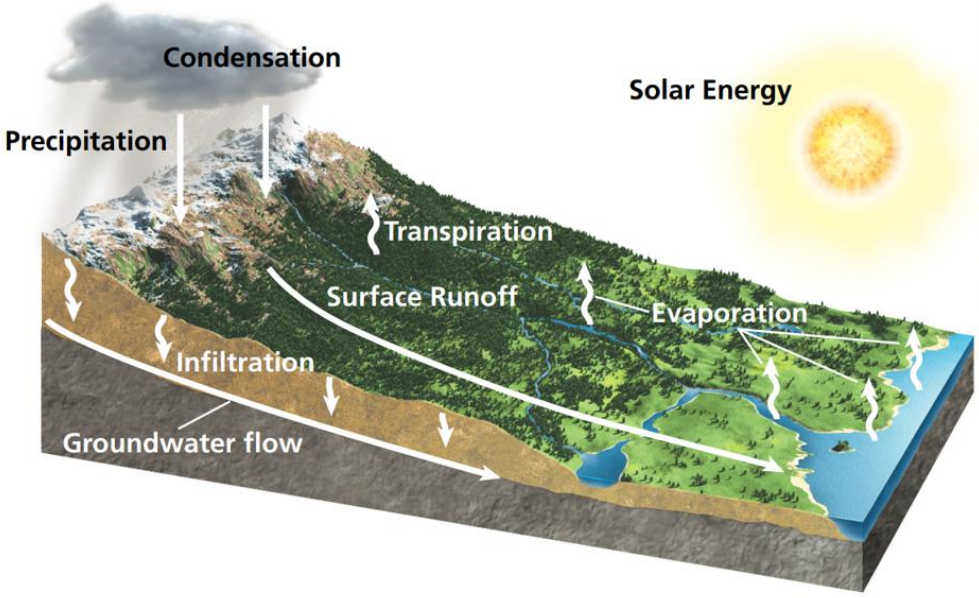
The Natural Water Cycle – how nature recycles water:



Water is constantly on the move on our planet, heating and cooling and changing states.

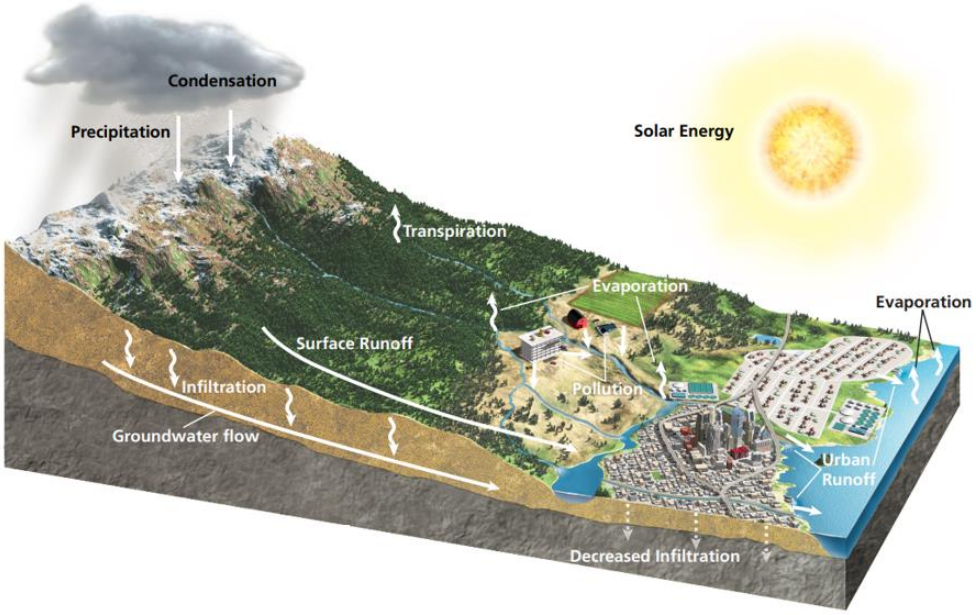
There is no real beginning, but let's start with **evaporation**, where water from oceans, lakes, and rivers turns into vapor.

This vapor cools and **condenses** into clouds, leading to **precipitation** (rain, snow, etc.) that falls to the ground.

Water then flows over land (**runoff**), soaks into the soil (**infiltration**), or collects in bodies of water—eventually evaporating again to repeat the cycle.

This natural process is essential for sustaining ecosystems and replenishing fresh water.

The Urban Water Cycle:



How do we interrupt the natural water cycle?

1. We capture water in reservoirs to make clean drinking water
2. We direct storm water
3. We create wastewater that needs treatment.
    - Recycled water is water we can capture and reuse at the **end** of the treatment process.
    - To make sure it is safe, there are different uses and classes for recycled water.

Source: *Earth's Freshwater – A Guide to Teaching Freshwater in Grades 3 to 8 Comparison of Water Cycles Diagram*, from *The Environment Literacy Teacher Guide Series.*