



# THE WATER CYCLE

**EVAPORATION:** The process where liquid water changes into water vapor (gas).

**CONDENSATION:** The process where water vapor (gas) changes into water droplets (liquid).

**PLANT UPTAKE:** Water taken from the groundwater flow and soil moisture.

**TRANSPIRATION:** Evaporation of liquid water from plants and trees into the atmosphere.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The movement of solid, liquid and gaseous water through the atmosphere.

**RUNOFF:** River, lake, and stream transport of water and transport of ice in glaciers.

**PRECIPITATION:** Water that falls to the earth. Most precipitation falls as rain but includes snow, sleet, drizzle, and hail.

**GROUNDWATER:** Underground water flow (aquifers).

**DEPOSITION:** Water vapor (a gas) changes into ice (a solid) without going through the liquid phase.

**SUBLIMATION:** Ice and snow (a solid) changes into water vapor (a gas) without moving through the liquid phase.

**INFILTRATION:** Movement of water into the ground from the surface.

**PERCOLATION:** Movement of water past the soil going deep into the groundwater.

National Weather Service  
www.weather.gov/jetstream

