



# What Is the Water Cycle?



by Ellen Lawrence

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# An Amazing Journey

It's a hot day at the zoo.

To cool off, a large elephant uses its trunk to suck up water from a pool.

Then the animal sprays water all over its body.

Some of the water falls to the ground and makes a big puddle.

The water won't be there for long, though.

The water is about to go on an amazing journey.



**What do you think will happen to the water in the puddle?**

Water is a liquid. It can flow and take the shape of whatever it is in. That shape might be a bottle, a pond, or even an elephant's trunk!







# Disappearing Water?

As the sun shines, the puddle at the zoo gets smaller.

Soon, all the water is gone—or is it?

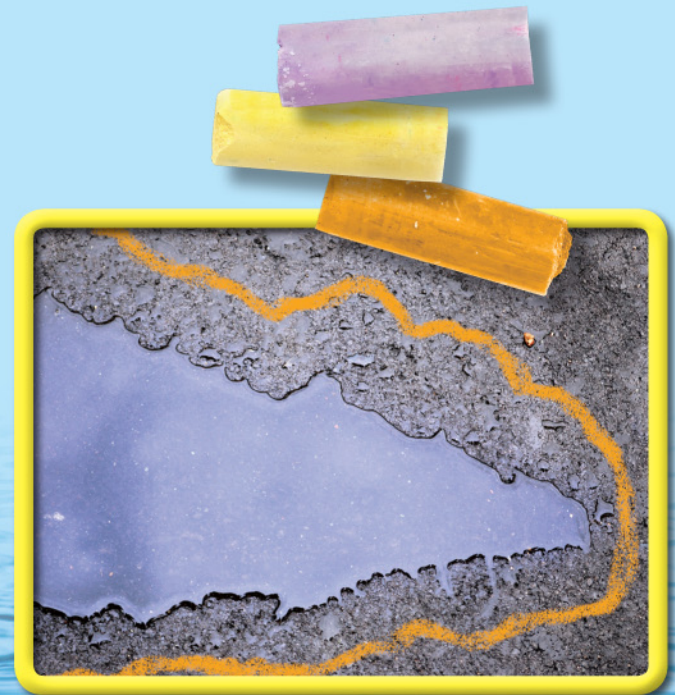
You can't see the water anymore, but it is still around!

The sun's warmth has changed it into a gas called **water vapor**.

Once the water turns into vapor, it floats from the puddle into the air.

Liquid water changing into water vapor is called evaporation.

On a warm day, pour a cup of water onto dry pavement and quickly outline it with chalk. Check the puddle every ten minutes and draw a new outline around it. What do you see happening?







the elephant's  
puddle



The puddle has  
disappeared.

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## Read More

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## Learn More Online

To learn more about the water cycle, visit  
[www.bearportpublishing.com/WeatherWise](http://www.bearportpublishing.com/WeatherWise)

## Answers

**Be a Water Cycle Scientist (page 22)**  
Over several days you will see the water level in the cup get lower. The water is turning into water vapor and floating into the air.

## About the Author

Ellen Lawrence lives in the United Kingdom. Her favorite books to write are those about animals and nature. In fact, the first book Ellen bought for herself, when she was six years old, was the story of a gorilla named Patty Cake that was born in New York's Central Park Zoo.



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# What Is the Water Cycle?

Question: Why do rain and snow fall from the sky?

Answer: The Water Cycle. That's what makes it all possible. Water moves from Earth into the air and back to Earth again in a continuous cycle that never ever stops. Read all about this miraculous process in *What Is the Water Cycle?* Forecast for this book: wet and wild!

**How Are Rain, Snow,  
and Hail Alike?**

**What Are Clouds?**

**What Is Climate?**

**What Is the  
Water Cycle?**

**What Is Weather?**



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