

# HYDROLOGIC CYCLE

## “ONLY RAIN IN OUR DRAINS”

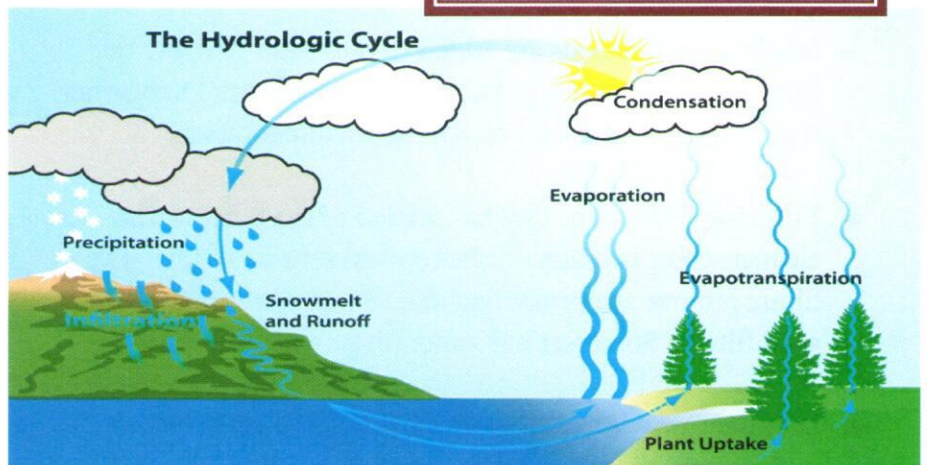
*Now that we've had a little fun with rain let's learn how and why it rains!*

To understand why it rains we must first learn the Hydrologic Cycle. The Hydrologic cycle is a continuous cycle where water evaporates, travels into the air and becomes part of a cloud, falls down to earth as precipitation (rain), and then evaporates again. This repeats again and again in a never-ending cycle.

*A picture always helps!*

How much water is there on (and in) the Earth?

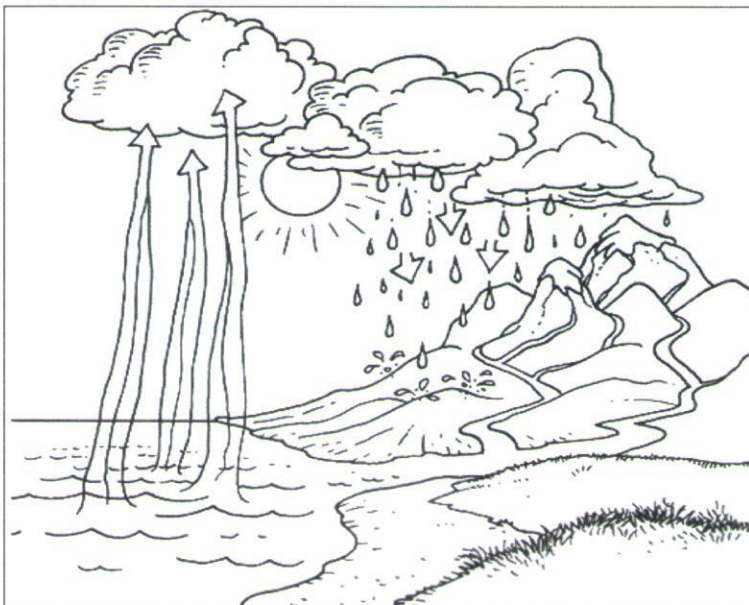
The Earth is made up of 1,386 million cubic kilometers of water this includes oceans, icecaps and glaciers, lakes, rivers, groundwater, and water in the atmosphere.



*A cubic kilometer of water equals about 264 Billion Gallons. That's a bunch of water!!*

Over 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered by water. 97 percent of that comes from oceans and **not suitable for drinking**. The remaining 3 percent is found in glaciers and ice, below the ground, in rivers and lakes.

What does this have to do with Stormwater and keeping our drinking water clean? **Less than 1% of the world's freshwater is readily accessible. We humans need fresh water to thrive!**



*Remember "Only rain in our drains" and this is why!*