Water on the Move

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The water on Earth is always moving. The path it follows is called the water cycle. On the way, water changes between a liquid, a solid and a gas. It is a liquid in oceans, rivers and lakes, a solid as ice and snow, and a gas, called water vapor, in the air.

Heat from sunlight makes water evaporate from oceans, lakes and streams: it turns into water vapor. Water from plants and trees goes up into the air too.

The warm water vapor rises. Higher up, the air is cooler, so the vapor turns back into liquid water and makes clouds. This is called condensation.

When a cloud is full of water, the water falls as rain or snow. Rain fills lakes and streams, gives plants water and refills the water under the ground that we drink. Then the cycle starts all over again.

1. **What three forms does water take in the water cycle?**

2. **What makes water evaporate from oceans and lakes?**

3. **How do clouds form?**

4. **A puddle on the playground is gone by the afternoon. Where do you think the water went? Why?**

Answer key

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1. What three forms does water take in the water cycle?
   A liquid, a solid (ice and snow) and a gas (water vapor).

2. What makes water evaporate from oceans and lakes?
   Heat from sunlight.

3. How do clouds form?
   Warm water vapor rises. Higher up the air is cooler, so the vapor turns back into liquid water and makes clouds.

4. A puddle on the playground is gone by the afternoon. Where do you think the water went? Why?
   Sample answer: into the air as water vapor, because heat from sunlight makes liquid water evaporate.