**Vocabulary:** **Water Cycle**

dictionary2

**Vocabulary**

* Aquifer – an underground layer of porous rock and/or sand that contains water.
* Condensation – change from a gas to a liquid.
  + Condensation of water occurs when water vapor is cooled.
  + Condensation forms clouds, mist, and fog.
* Evaporation – change from a liquid to a gas at temperatures below boiling.
* Freezing – changing from a liquid to a solid.
* Glacier – a large, slowly moving body of snow and ice.
* Melting – changing from a solid to a liquid.
* Phase change – a change from one state of matter to another.
  + The three states of matter found naturally on Earth are solid, liquid, and gas.
  + Types of phase changes include freezing, melting, evaporation, boiling, and condensation.
* Precipitation – water that falls to Earth’s surface.
  + Types of precipitation include rain, sleet, snow, hail, and mist. Sleet is frozen rain, and hail consists of frozen balls of ice that can be as large as grapefruit.
* Reservoir – a body of water, often an artificial lake, which is used to store water for human use.
* Runoff – water that moves across the surface of land into streams or rivers.
  + Sources of runoff include heavy rain, snowmelt, or excess irrigation water.
  + Runoff can carry pollutants from the soil into rivers and streams.
* Transpiration – the release of water vapor from the leaves of plants.
* Water cycle – the continuous movement of water from Earth’s surface to the atmosphere and back again.