Water Cycle Poster Project

You have been learning about the water cycle. Water in the water cycle is continually changing from liquid to vapor to ice. One way to think about the water cycle is to follow a drop of water around as it moves on its way through the cycle. You will be creating a poster that shows the water cycle through the eyes of a water molecule. Below is the information that we have learned so far.

Water can be stored in different ways. We learned that water can be stored (accumulate) in:

* Surface water (oceans, lakes, rivers, streams…) - 97% is stored in oceans.
* Atmosphere (clouds, fog, humidity, etc.)
* Glaciers – These giant, slowly moving ice sheets form from snow that compacts

About 75% of the Earth’s *fresh* water is stored as glaciers (most in the north and south poles)

* Groundwater
* Living organisms – Our body is made up of around 70% water

Water can travel in many different ways. It can:

* Evaporate –from surface water into the atmosphere
* Condense – from the atmosphere into precipitation
* Precipitate (rain, snow, sleet, hail, and ice)
* Transpire – from living organisms such as plants into the atmosphere
* Run-off – from surface back into the ocean or a lake
* Melt – from precipitation as snow to surface water or from glaciers to surface water
* Percolate – from surface water to groundwater cycled over again
* Drink – from surface water or groundwater to living organisms
* Excrete – from living organisms to surface or groundwater

On your poster, you will illustrate IN COLOR:

1. **All 5 ways** in which water accumulates on Earth (include at least **3 forms** of surface water)
2. **At least the first 5** ways in which water travels, PLUS at least **two other ways**. (When doing precipitation, be sure to include at least **two different types.**) Please use arrows to indicate direction.
3. **Other important elements** of the water cycle such as the sun, mountains, and clouds.
4. Be sure to **label each term** that you illustrate, and include a **definition** of each term using complete sentences.
5. Be sure each team member’s **name** is included on the poster.

Water Cycle Questions (To be completed individually, in COMPLETE sentences)

1. Describe the pathway of a water drop from the ocean all the way to your cup at home using the terms listed on the other side of the worksheet.
2. Water molecules evaporate from a puddle after a rain storm. In this sentence, what does the word evaporate mean?
3. Solid water crystals can form…
   1. Sleet
   2. Hail
   3. Snow
   4. All of the above
4. What process makes clouds?
5. The water cycle is a very important process for life on Earth. Why is it called a cycle?
6. Your breath contains water vapor. Why can you sometimes see your breath when it’s cold outside?
7. When some people see dew on the ground, they might think that it rained. But dew and rain are different. How does dew form? (You may need to do a bit of research for this question)
8. The Great Salt Lake constantly has water flowing into it from the Jordan River. If water is always being added to it shouldn’t the Salt Lake continue to get bigger and bigger? Why doesn’t it? (It’s actually shrinking).