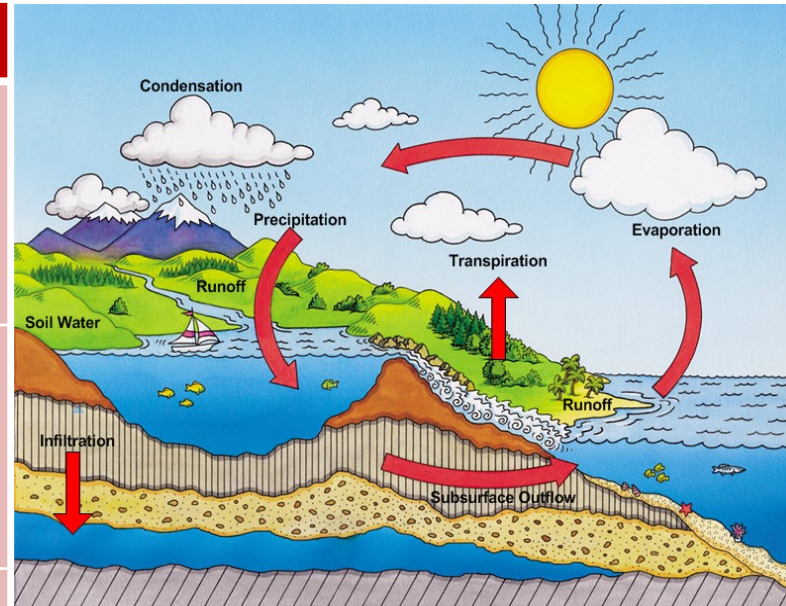


The water cycle

- Water on earth is constantly recycled through the water cycle.
- 71% of the Earth's surface is covered with water, most of which is salt water in the oceans.
- The water cycle is the movement of water between the Earth's oceans, atmosphere and land.
- While moving through the water cycle, water will be 'stored' in one place for a period of time, these are called **water stores**.

Key vocabulary

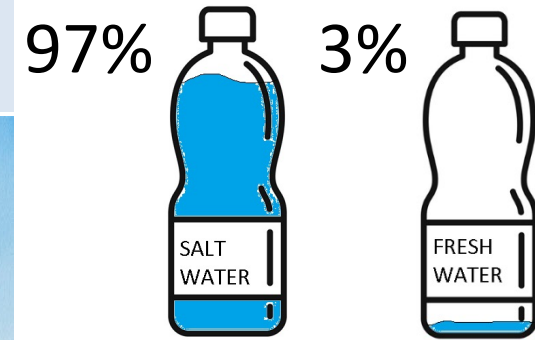
Evaporation	The process by which water is warmed by the heat of the sun and rises into the air as water vapour.
Transpiration	The process by which water is drawn up through plants and released into the air as water vapour.
Condensation	The process by which water vapour (water in its gas form) turns into liquid.
Precipitation	Liquid and solid particles that fall from clouds and reach the ground.
Accumulation	The gathering of precipitation that travels over the ground or soaks into it.



Humans and the water cycle

- Each person in the UK uses on average of about 150 litres of water a day.
- As the human population grows it is becoming more important to use water sustainably.
- Recycling wastewater through modern water treatment technology is one way of reducing the pressures on the water cycle.
- Humans harness the water cycle to generate electricity. Dams can be built to collect water and generate hydroelectric power.

Amount of salt water vs fresh water stored on our earth.



Water stores – ice caps

- Most of our freshwater on earth is stored in ice caps.
- The two polar ice caps exist on landmasses of Antarctica and Greenland.
- Ice in glaciers and ice caps plays an important part in keeping our sea levels stable.
- If all the water currently stored as ice was to melt, sea levels would rise about 70m.

