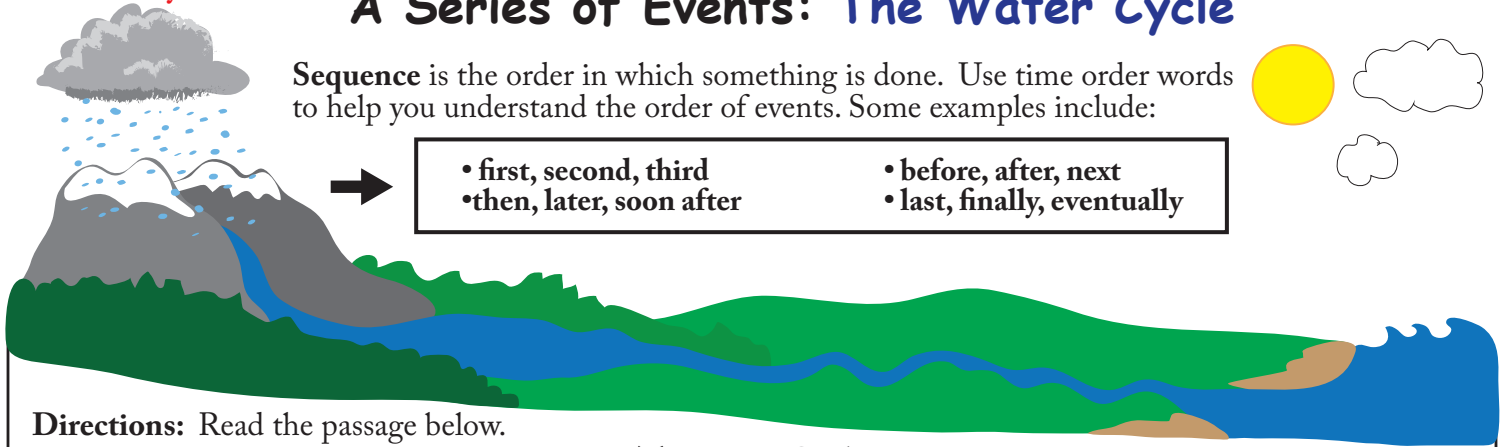


**Answer Key****A Series of Events: The Water Cycle**

**Sequence** is the order in which something is done. Use time order words to help you understand the order of events. Some examples include:

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • first, second, third    | • before, after, next       |
| • then, later, soon after | • last, finally, eventually |



**Directions:** Read the passage below.

**The Water Cycle**

Have you ever wondered what happens to puddles after a big rainstorm? Each bit of precipitation in our world goes through the water cycle. The water cycle is the movement of all the water on Earth. The water in, on, and above the Earth is always moving and changing states. It changes from liquid to vapor. It changes from vapor to ice, and back again. The cycle continually repeats itself.

First, the sun heats up the Earth's surface and draws water into the atmosphere. This process is called evaporation. This is what makes puddles disappear! The water evaporates, changing from a liquid into a gas.

Then, as the water vapor rises into the sky, it cools down. It turns back into a liquid when it is in the clouds. This part of the water cycle is called condensation.

After the clouds become heavy, precipitation falls. It falls as rain, snow, hail, or sleet. Sometimes precipitation can fall in heavy amounts. This can cause flooding and problems for people and animals on Earth. Mountainous areas, places that typically have snow, experience melting when the temperatures rise. The snowmelt runs down toward sea level.

As the runoff reaches lower elevations, it can end up in lakes and rivers, eventually leading to the ocean. This part of the process is called collection. Water is collected in different places on the Earth. It can be absorbed back into trees and plants. It can return to lakes, rivers, and the ocean. The water can freeze into snow, ice, or glaciers, depending on the climate.

The water cycle is a system in nature that is constantly moving. The steps always occur in the same order, and the cycle always repeats itself.

**Directions:** Complete the chart with details from the text that show the correct sequence of events.

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| First,      | water evaporates when Earth is heated by the sun.                              |
|             | ↓  |
| Next,       | the water cools down in a process called condensation as it reaches the clouds |
|             | ↓  |
| After that, | the clouds become heavy, and precipitation falls back to the ground.           |
|             | ↓  |
| Then,       | water is collected on the earth in various places.                             |
|             | ↓  |
| Finally,    | the water cycle begins again.  |