

Vocabulary



atmosphere the blanket of air that surrounds Earth

Weather occurs in the layer of the atmosphere closest to Earth, called the troposphere.

condensation the process by which a gas changes to a liquid

Water vapor condenses when it is cooled.

evaporation the process by which a liquid changes to a gas

Warmer temperatures increase the rate of evaporation.

precipitation water that falls to Earth's surface

Precipitation occurs when water falls from clouds as rain, hail, sleet, or snow.

water cycle the continuous movement of water in the environment through evaporation, condensation, and precipitation

The Sun is the "engine" that drives the water cycle.

water vapor water in a gas state

Water vapor is invisible. Air contains varying amounts of water vapor.

weather the condition of the atmosphere at a given place and time

Weather patterns form due to the uneven heating of Earth's curved surface by the Sun.