

Name: _____

What is Precipitation?



Water is always moving on earth, the water cycle is a good example to show how earth's water moves. Evaporation is when the water changes to vapor and rises and precipitation is when the water condenses and comes back to the ground. Precipitation is water that forms in the atmosphere and falls back to earth. Clouds hold water and ice droplets and when they get too heavy, they release the water droplets. When the water droplets get released, they will be in the form of snow, rain, freezing rain, hail or sleet. Any of these forms of water that are released from the clouds are called precipitation. Therefore, any form of water that falls from the clouds is precipitation. Any kind of weather condition that results in water or frozen water falling from the sky/clouds is called precipitation. Precipitation happens when the water droplets or ice droplets condense and falls to the ground. Freezing rain freezes on contact but hail is in the form of ice pellets that can vary in size and can cause damage. Snowflakes fall and land as snow, therefore remains frozen, and sleet becomes frozen just before it lands on the surface. The type or size of precipitation that happens is determined by the size and temperature of the cloud that it came from. Weather forecasts always include the type of precipitation and duration of precipitation expected on any given day. Different places and regions on earth received different amounts of precipitation. For instance, the tropical areas receive more precipitation than arid or desert regions do. Rainfall is measured using a rain gauge and will be measured in inches or centimeters.

Questions:

- ① Using your own words, define precipitation.
- ② What are the 5 forms of precipitation?
- ③ Where does precipitation come from?
- ④ How is the amount of rainfall measured?
- ⑤ What would happen if there was no precipitation?
- ⑥ Which forms of precipitation are frozen water?