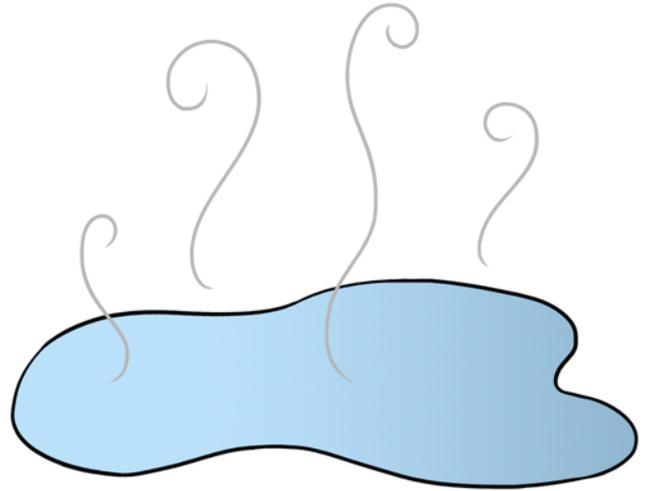


Evaporation

Where does all the water from the surface go after it rains? Does it disappear? Where does all the snow go after it melts? Water sometimes appears to disappear but it is actually changing from one state to another. When water looks like it is drying up from puddles, it is actually changing from a liquid to a vapor/gas state. This process of water or a liquid, changing to a gas state is called evaporation. Water is always on the move and when water moves from the surface to the atmosphere, it is going through a change of state from liquid to a gas which is called evaporation.



Have you ever wondered what causes water to evaporate? Why does the rain dry up after it forms puddles? Where does the early morning dew, which is little droplets of water found on plants and grasses go to? The answer to this, is the heat from the sun is what causes water to evaporate. The more heat energy the water particles take in, the faster it moves and evaporates. Water vapor is the gas state of water, it is all around you and in the air you breathe but you can not see it. Water is constantly moving and one of the ways it moves is by evaporating from the oceans, ponds, rivers, lakes and streams all because of the heat from the sun.

QUESTIONS:

- 1 What is the process called when a liquid changes to a gas?
- 2 Why does it look like water just disappears from a puddle?
- 3 In your own words, describe what evaporation is.
- 4 What causes evaporation to happen?
- 5 When a kettle produces steam from boiling, what is that process called?
- 6 What causes water to evaporate more quickly?