

CGC1P Unit 1: The Diversity of Canada's Natural Landscapes

Activity 7: Water

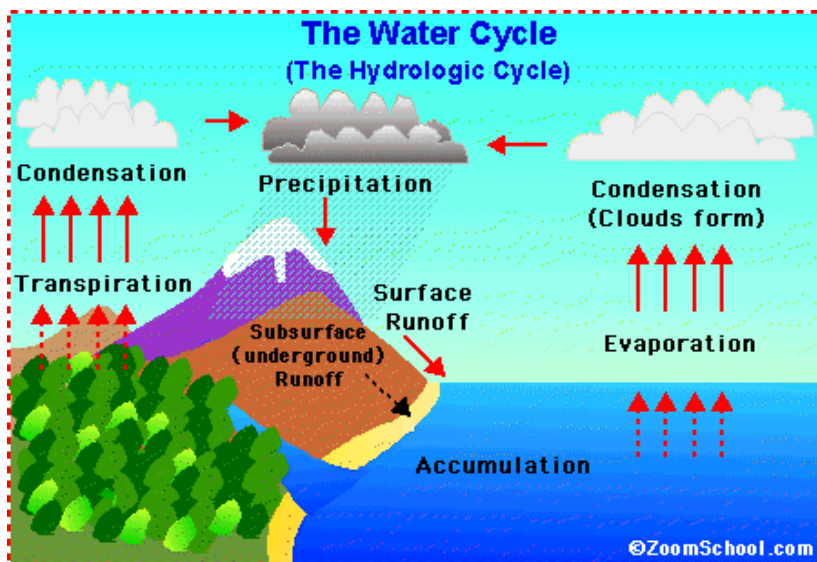
Overview

Canada has a variety of waterways that benefit both people and nature. These waterways include freshwater rivers and lakes, marshes and wetlands, ground water, and, of course, the three oceans surrounding Canada. In this activity, students will analyze the water cycle, discover the waterways in their local area.

Lesson

Water

Three quarters (3/4) of the earth is covered in water. This water is constantly being recycled on earth in what is called the **water cycle**.



The water we see is the water on the surface of the earth. With wells we get water from **groundwater** - water beneath the earth's surface, often between saturated soil and rock, which supplies wells and springs.

In Canada, the water flows through drainage basins. Each creek, stream, or brook flows into rivers, which eventually flow into one of the bodies of water surrounding Canada. This flow of water is called **drainage** - the act or process of drawing off

fluids from a cavity or basin by means of gravity.

A **drainage basin** is the area of land that is drained of water by a river system. We have five major drainage basins in Canada. The water in each river eventually flows into the Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Hudson Bay, or southward into the Gulf of Mexico.

Most of the **freshwater** (not salty) in Canada is found in lakes and wetlands. Canada has the most abundant freshwater resources in the world with the Great Lakes. **Wetlands** are areas of swamp, marsh, or bog; these usually exist in low-lying locations, which collect plenty of water.

Assignment

1. How much of the world is covered in water? What is the difference between ocean water and fresh water?
2. Draw a diagram to demonstrate the water cycle.
3. Did the dinosaurs drink the same water we do today? Explain your answer.
4. What is a groundwater?
5. What is a drainage basin? What are Canada's 5 major drainage basins?
6. What is the most abundant fresh water source in the world?
7. What are wetlands?