Cause and effect

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

*The **cause** is why something happened.*

For example:
There was a lot of wind last night.

*The **effect** is what happened.*

For example:
A tree fell down on our street.

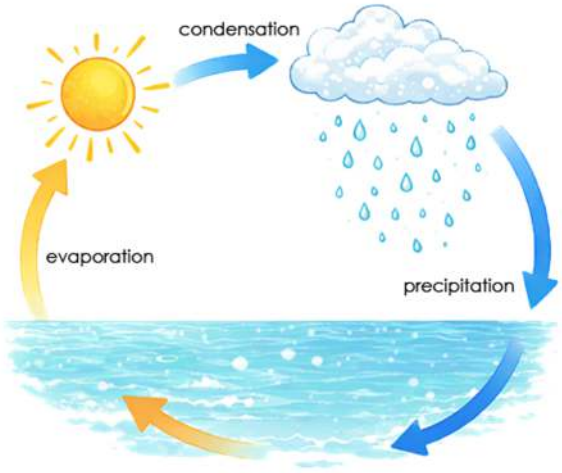
Read about the water cycle, and think about cause and effect:

The Water Cycle

You can't see it, but the water cycle is always in motion on Earth. This series of events goes round and round, again and again, providing clean, fresh water to our planet. As water goes through this cycle, it is sometimes solid ice, sometimes liquid water and sometimes a gas called water vapor.

The energy that drives the water cycle is heat. When heat is added to ice, the ice melts into water. When heat is added to water, the water evaporates and turns from liquid into gas. When heat is taken away from water vapor, the vapor condenses and turns from gas into liquid. When heat is taken away from water, the water freezes and turns from liquid to solid.

The heat from the sun warms the water in oceans and rivers. The water changes into water vapor that rises into the air. High above the Earth, the water vapor cools and becomes tiny particles of water that create clouds. As the clouds gather more and more particles of water, the water falls as rain or snow, which are two forms of precipitation. This precipitation is absorbed into the ground or is added to the water in oceans, lakes and rivers. The cycle is always happening, everywhere in the world.



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Then answer the following questions:

1. **Cause**: Water in the oceans and rivers is heated by the sun.
What is the **effect**?

   a. condensation
   b. evaporation
   c. precipitation

2. **Cause**: Water vapor begins to cool as it rises into the air.
What is the **effect**?

   a. condensation
   b. evaporation
   c. precipitation

3. **Cause**: Particles of water in a cloud gather to form drops heavy enough to fall to Earth. What is the **effect**?

   a. condensation
   b. evaporation
   c. precipitation

4. **Cause**: The water cycle is always in motion on the Earth.
What is the **effect**?

   a. Water is absorbed into the Earth.
   b. Clean, fresh water is provided for the land and seas of Earth.
   c. Heat is the energy that drives the water cycle.

5. **Cause**: Heat is added to water. What is the **effect**?

   _____

   _____

6. **Cause**: Heat is taken away from water. What is the **effect**?

   _____

   _____

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Answers

1. **Cause**: Water in the oceans and rivers is heated by the sun.
What is the **effect**?

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   b. evaporation
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3. **Cause**: Particles of water in a cloud gather to form drops heavy enough to fall to Earth. What is the **effect**?

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   b. evaporation
   c. precipitation

4. **Cause**: The water cycle is always in motion on the Earth.
What is the **effect**?

   a. Water is absorbed into the Earth.
   b. Clean, fresh water is provided for the land and seas of Earth.
   c. Heat is the energy that drives the water cycle.

5. **Cause**: Heat is added to water. What is the **effect**?

   The water turns into water vapor.

6. **Cause**: Heat is taken away from water. What is the **effect**?

   The water turns into ice.

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