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Science News

SEPTEMBER 2025

1 What Is an Observatory?

2 The Water Cycle

3 All About Wheat

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Video

Contents

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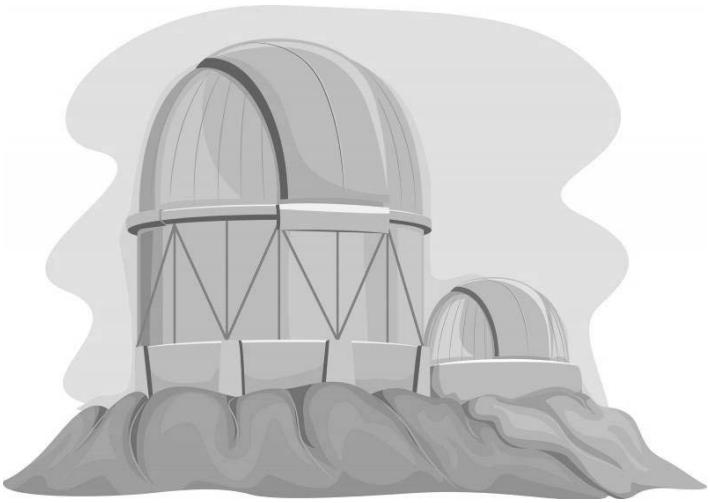
WHAT IS AN OBSERVATORY?

An observatory is a special place where scientists go to look at the sky, the stars, and the planets. It is like a giant science **lab** that helps people learn more about space. These places are very important for discovering new things about the universe.

Scientists who work in observatories are called **astronomers**. They study planets, stars, moons, and even galaxies that are far, far away. Sometimes they also watch **comets** and **asteroids** that travel through space. By studying these things, they can learn how the universe was made and how it changes over time.

Many observatories have a big round building with a roof that can open, so scientists can point their **instruments** at the night sky. The most important instrument in an observatory is a telescope. A telescope makes faraway objects look closer and clearer. Some telescopes are so big they can be as tall as a house. Modern observatories also use computers to collect data and special cameras that can see light our eyes cannot, such as **infrared light**. These tools help scientists gather new information about space.

Observatories are usually built far away from busy cities. This is because city lights make the sky too bright at night, which makes it harder to see stars clearly. Many observatories are placed on top of mountains, where the air is cleaner and the sky is darker. This gives



scientists the best view of the universe.

There are some very **famous** observatories around the world. Mauna Kea in Hawaii is one of the biggest and most powerful observatories. Another famous one is the Hubble Space Telescope, which is an observatory that **orbits** Earth in space.

Observatories help us look farther than our eyes ever could, opening a window into the wonders of the universe.

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Lab: A place where scientists do experiments and study things

Astronomers: Scientists who study space, like stars, planets, and galaxies

Comets: Balls of ice, rock, and dust that fly through space

Asteroid: A small rocky object that travels around the Sun

Instrument: A tool or device used for a particular task, especially for specialist or scientific work

Infrared light: Light that we cannot see with our eyes

Famous: Known about by many people

Orbits: The path one object takes as it goes around another

WHAT IS AN OBSERVATORY? QUESTIONS

1. An observatory is a special place where scientists go to look at what?

   _____

2. It is a giant science lab that helps people learn more about?

   _____

3. Scientists who work in observatories are called _____.

4. What do astronomers study?

   _____

   _____

5. What is the most important instrument in an observatory?

   _____

6. Modern observatories also use _____ to collect data and special cameras that can see light our eyes cannot, such as infrared light.

7. Why are observatories usually built far away from busy cities?

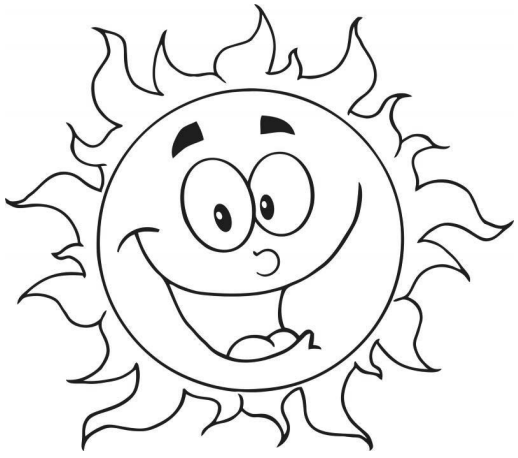
   _____

   _____

8. Mauna Kea in _____ is one of the biggest and most powerful observatories.

STAR GAZING

If someone gave you a telescope, what would you want to look at in the night sky? There are stars, the Moon, asteroids, comets, and other planets. Use the space below to explain what you would look at, or draw a picture of the things you might see.



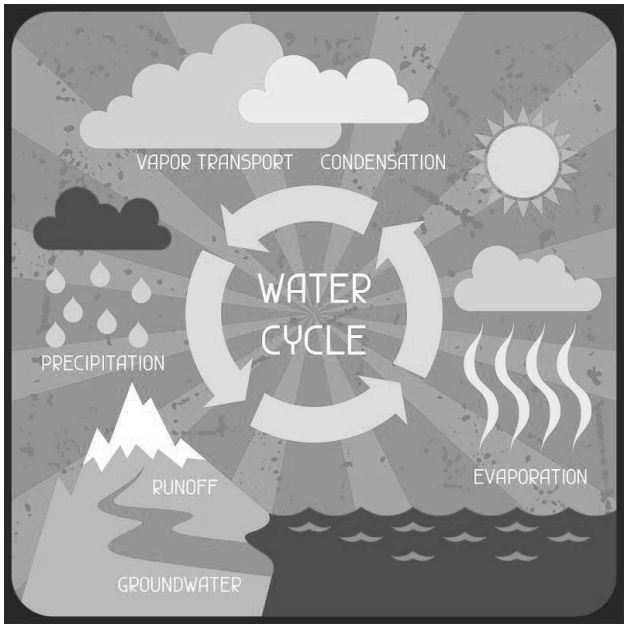
THE WATER CYCLE

The water cycle is the way water moves around our planet. Water is always travelling, even if we cannot see it moving. It goes up into the air, comes back down as rain or snow, and then flows through rivers, lakes, and oceans. After that, the cycle starts all over again. This process never stops, and it is one of the reasons life on Earth is possible.

Water begins in places like oceans, rivers, and lakes. When the Sun shines, the water warms up and slowly changes into a gas called water **vapour**. This process is called evaporation.

The water vapour rises into the air and forms clouds. Inside the clouds, the water cools down and turns back into tiny water drops. When the drops become heavy, they fall as rain or snow. This is called **precipitation**. The rain and snow fill rivers, lakes, and streams, and some of the water sinks into the ground. From there, it flows back to the ocean, and the whole cycle begins again.

Most of the water we see today has been cycling around the Earth for millions of years. The water you drink could have once been a part of a cloud, a river, or even a **glacier**. That is how amazing the water cycle is.



Sometimes the water cycle can be **disrupted**. For example, if there is not enough rain, a **drought**

can happen, and plants and animals may not have the water they need. **Pollution** can also harm the cycle by making water unhealthy for people and wildlife. Changes in climate affect the cycle too, causing some places to get too much rain and others not enough.

The water cycle is nature's way of recycling water, and it helps keep Earth healthy and full of life.

Vapour: Water that has turned into a gas we cannot see and is floating in the air

Precipitation: Rain, snow, sleet, or hail

Glacier: A huge, slow-moving river of ice found on mountains or near the poles

Disrupt: To make it difficult for something to continue in the normal way

Drought: A long time with little or no rain, making the land very dry

Pollution: Harmful things like trash, smoke, or chemicals that make the air, water, or land dirty

THE WATER CYCLE QUESTIONS

1. Where does water begin?

   _____

2. When the _____ shines, the water warms up and slowly changes into a gas called water vapour.

3. The water vapour rises into the air and forms _____.

4. When the water drops become heavy, they fall as what?

   _____

5. The rain and snow fill _____, and some of the water sinks into the ground.

6. Most of the water we see today has been _____ around the Earth for millions of years.

7. Sometimes the water cycle can be _____.

8. What can happen if there is not enough rain?

   _____

PICTURING THE CYCLE

The Sun heats up water and causes it to change from liquid into water vapour. This is called evaporation.

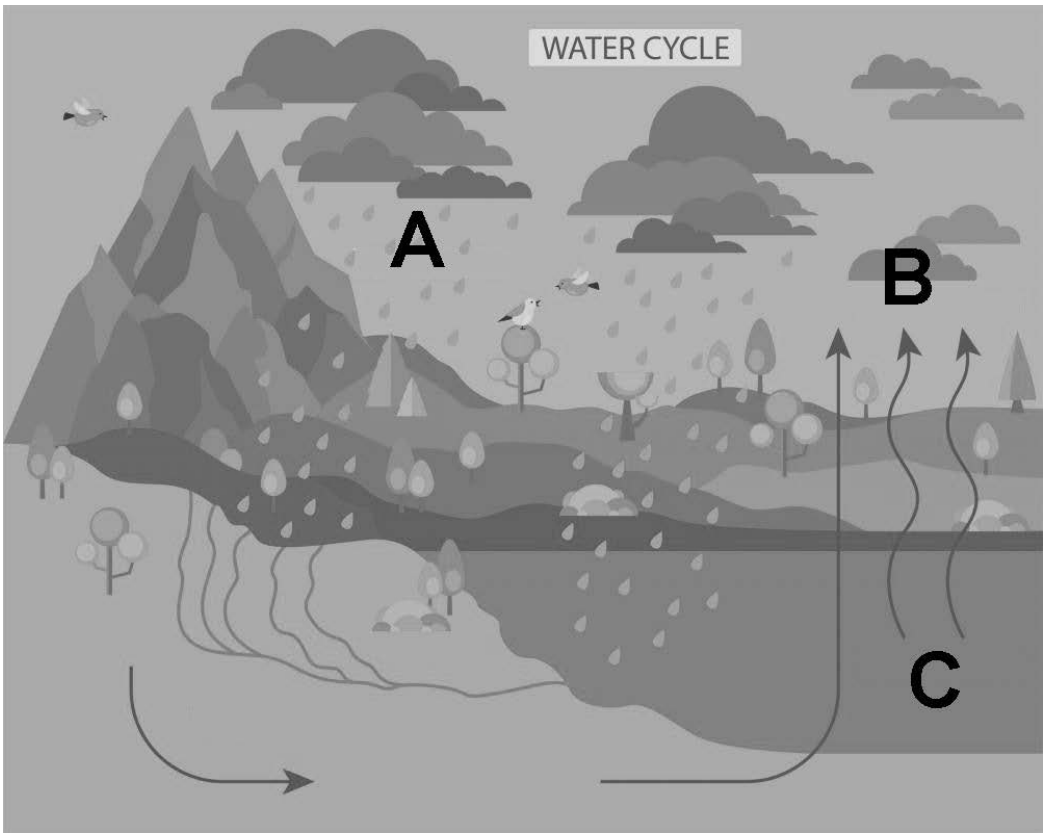
In the air, the water vapour cools down and changes back into tiny water droplets. This is called condensation, and it forms clouds in the sky.

When the clouds get full of water droplets, the water falls back to Earth as rain, snow, sleet, or hail. This is called precipitation.

Match each underlined word above with the correct letter in the diagram below.

A: _____ B: _____

C: _____



ALL ABOUT WHEAT

Wheat is one of the most important plants grown in the world. It is a type of **grain** that people use to make foods like bread, pasta, and cereal.

Farmers grow wheat in many countries, including the United States, Canada, Russia, India, and China. Wheat grows best in wide, open fields where there is plenty of sunshine. It also needs **soil** that is not too wet, but also not too dry. Areas that have cool winters and warm summers are perfect for wheat to grow well.

When a farmer plants wheat, it starts as a seed in the ground. The wheat grows into tall, green plants that look like grass. As the plant **ripens**, it turns golden brown. At harvest time, machines called **combines** gather the wheat heads, which are full of tiny grains. These grains are then ground into flour, which is used in many of the foods we eat every day.

Wheat is very useful because it has been a main food for people for thousands of years. It gives us energy and can be made into many different meals and snacks. Without wheat, we would miss out on bread, noodles, cookies, and many other favourite foods.

Some people have problems eating wheat. Wheat contains something called gluten, which is a **protein**. For most people, gluten is fine,

but for people with celiac disease, gluten makes them very sick. Even a small amount of wheat can harm their stomachs. Because of this, some foods are made with rice, corn, or other grains instead of wheat.

Wheat is important to farmers and families all around the world. It is a plant that feeds billions of people every day. With careful growing and cooking, it continues to be one of the world's most helpful crops.

Grain: A small, hard seed from plants like wheat, rice, or corn that people eat

Soil: The dirt on the ground where plants grow and get nutrients

Ripens: To become fully grown and ready to eat

Combine: A big farm machine that cuts and collects crops like wheat or corn

Protein: A nutrient in foods that helps our bodies grow strong and stay healthy

ALL ABOUT WHEAT QUESTIONS

1. Wheat is a type of _____ that people use to make foods like bread, pasta, and cereal.

2. Where is wheat grown best?

   _____

3. To grow, wheat needs soil that is not too _____, but also not too _____.

4. When a farmer plants wheat, it starts as a _____ in the ground.

5. At harvest time, machines called combines gather the wheat heads, which are full of tiny _____.

6. Wheat gives us _____ and can be made into many different meals and snacks.

7. Wheat contains something called _____, which is a protein.

8. Wheat is a plant that does what?

   _____

A MAGNETIC CAR

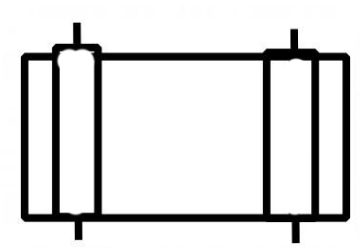
You can use two ordinary magnets to make a toy car move.

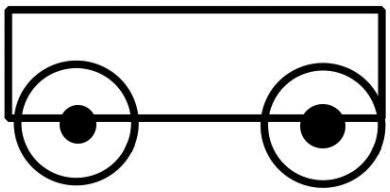
Materials:

- Two bar magnets
- Small empty box, like a matchbox
- Modelling clay
- Drinking straw
- Two toothpicks
- Scissors
- Tape
- Card
- Compass

Instructions:

1. Firmly tape one of the magnets to the inside of the tray of the matchbox.
2. Cut the straw in two pieces. Make each piece the same size as the matchbox.
3. Tape the pieces of straw to the outside part of the matchbox. Side in the tray.
4. Using the compass, draw four identical circles on the card. Carefully cut them out.
5. Push the toothpics through the straws. Attach the card circles to them.
6. Place the matchbox car on a tabletop. Bring the other magnet close. What happens?





ANSWER KEY

WHAT IS AN OBSERVATORY?

1. An observatory is a special place where scientists go to look at what? **The sky, the stars, and the planets**
2. It is a giant science lab that helps people learn more about? **Space**
3. Scientists who work in observatories are called **astronomers**.
4. What do astronomers study? **Planets, stars, moons, and even galaxies that are far, far away**
5. What is the most important instrument in an observatory? **A telescope**
6. Modern observatories also use **computers** to collect data and special cameras that can see light our eyes cannot, such as infrared light.
7. Why are observatories usually built far away from busy cities? **This is because city lights make the sky too bright at night, which makes it harder to see stars clearly.**
8. Mauna Kea in **Hawaii** is one of the biggest and most powerful observatories.

THE WATER CYCLE

1 Where does water begin? **In places like oceans, rivers, and lakes**
2. When the **Sun** shines, the water warms up and slowly changes into a gas called water vapour.
3. The water vapour rises into the air and forms **clouds**.
4. When the water drops become heavy, they fall as what? **Rain or snow**
5. The rain and snow fill **rivers, lakes, and streams**, and some of the water sinks into the ground.
6. Most of the water we see today has been **cycling** around the Earth for millions of years.
7. Sometimes the water cycle can be **disrupted**.
8. What can happen if there is not enough rain? **A drought**

PICTURING THE CYCLE

A. Precipitation
B. Condensation
C. Evaporation

ALL ABOUT WHEAT

1. Wheat is a type of **grain** that people use to make foods like bread, pasta, and cereal.
2. Where is wheat grown best? **In wide, open fields where there is plenty of sunshine**
3. To grow, wheat needs soil that is not too **wet**, but also not too **dry**.
4. When a farmer plants wheat, it starts as a **seed** in the ground.
5. At harvest time, machines called combines gather the wheat heads, which are full of tiny **grains**.
6. Wheat gives us **energy** and can be made into many different meals and snacks.
7. Wheat contains something called **gluten**, which is a protein.
8. Wheat is a plant that does what? **Feeds billions of people every day**

A MAGNETIC CAR

Two magnets can either attract or repel each other when they are brought close together. The way in which they move depends on which ends of the magnets are facing each other. The car will either roll towards or away from the magnet.