

We need to take care of our rivers and catchments so we have quality water to use to irrigate our crops and to drink; and so we can enjoy being at the river. Rubbish and chemicals should be kept away from our rivers and lakes. It wouldn't be much fun having a picnic at the river's edge on a hot day with lots of rubbish around! Rivers and lakes are part of the water cycle (also called the hydrological cycle). It's called a cycle as it goes around and round continuously.

Clouds form when water rises into the air, due to condensation. The water rising is in the form of a gas. When the clouds cannot hold any more water, rain drops fall. This is also called precipitation. Rain drops are water in the form of a liquid. This rain (or precipitation) will fall onto hills and mountains, into oceans, lakes and into the river. If it's very cold, this water might fall to the ground in a solid form – such as hail stones (which are ice), or as snow. If the ground is dry, some of the water that has fallen onto the ground will soak in; and it becomes 'ground water'. This process of soaking into the ground is called infiltration. Some rain will not stay where it falls, it will flow to the lowest point. This water is called run-off and the place where it stops is called a catchment. When the sun heats the land it dries out as, the water in the ground begins to rise into the sky – it begins to evaporate. When the sun heats plants and trees, the water they store in their leaves also starts moving into the sky – they start to transpire. This is a little bit like us sweating when we get hot.

W	C	L	I	Q	U	I	D	S	K	Y
P	A	I	R	R	I	G	A	T	E	P
R	T	T	R	A	N	S	P	I	R	E
E	C	H	E	M	I	C	A	L	S	N
C	H	O	T	R	U	N	O	F	F	O
I	M	P	L	A	N	T	S	R	L	I
P	E	D	A	I	E	S	Y	R	A	T
I	N	I	N	N	W	P	T	I	K	A
T	T	L	D	O	C	O	I	S	E	S
A	I	O	N	O	S	R	L	E	S	N
T	U	S	E	I	R	D	A	S	C	E
I	C	E	D	G	E	S	U	N	Y	D
O	C	E	A	N	V	S	Q	O	C	N
N	C	A	R	E	I	G	A	S	L	O
E	V	A	P	O	R	A	T	E	E	C