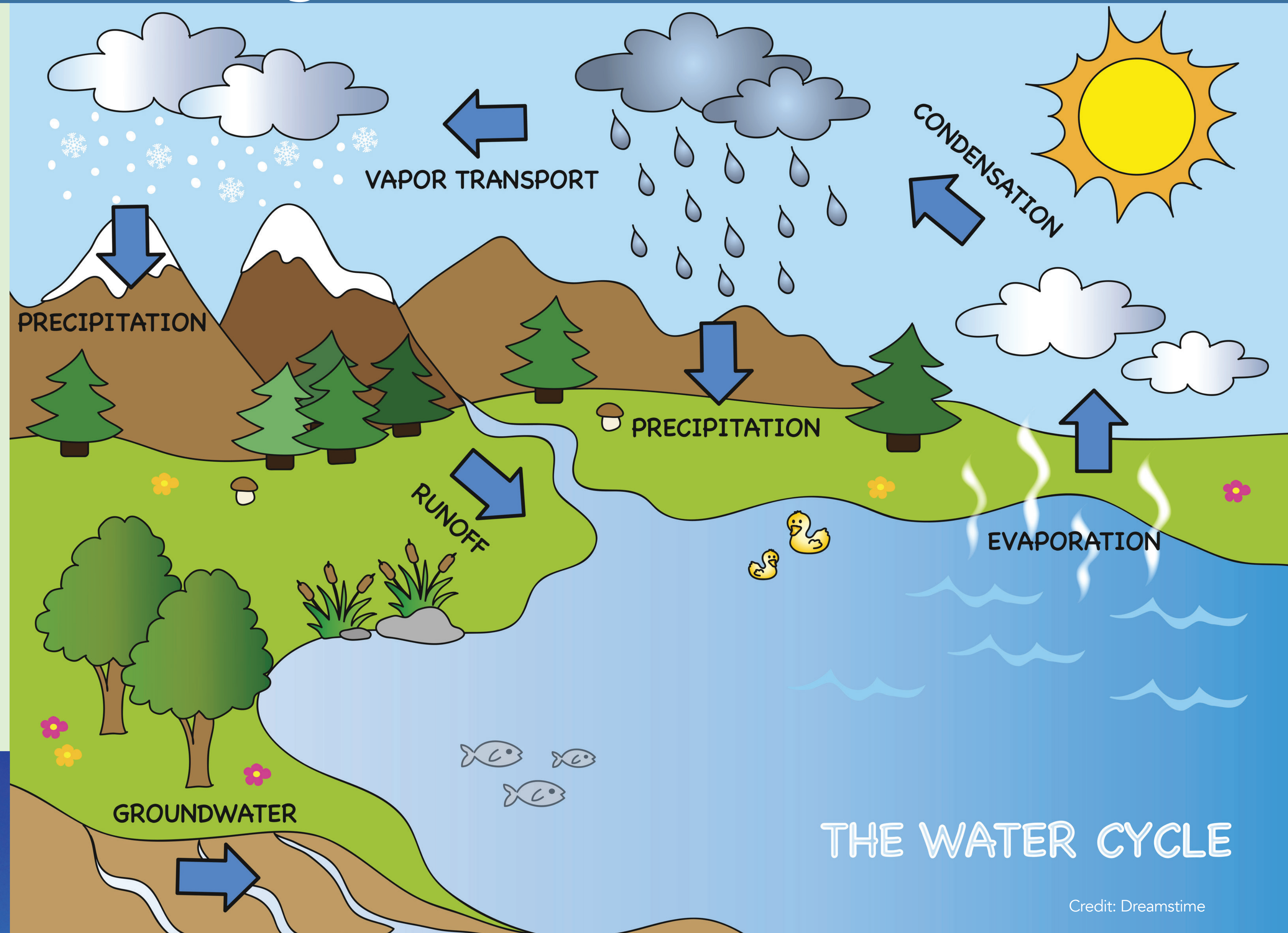


The Water Cycle

Earth is the water planet. Our water has been around for millions of years and will be here for millions more. Clean water is available to us because it is continuously flowing through the hydrological or water cycle everywhere on Earth. Hydrology is the study of these water movements. Right here we can see and sense many components of the cycle. Water is evaporating from the river and transpiring from all the leaves around you (unless it is winter). Water vapor in the atmosphere can condense as fog or fall from clouds as precipitation (rain or snow).



The Lamprey River collects runoff from the surrounding landscape. Water within the Lamprey River evaporates to create clouds which condense and fall as precipitation back into the Lamprey River. Credit: Abigail Gronberg

Can you see any clouds today? Rain or snow enters the groundwater through the soil, and some might reach the Lamprey River through surface runoff where it will be carried to the Great Bay Estuary and Atlantic Ocean. In the ocean, water evaporates all year long to replenish the atmosphere with moisture that will fall as rain again.

<https://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids.html>
<https://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids-adv.html>

