

Name _____



Why Water Matters

Water is one of the most important compounds on Earth. It may look simple, but it plays a huge role in keeping all living things alive. Water is made up of two elements: hydrogen and oxygen. When these two elements join together, they form a compound called H_2O —water!

A compound is a substance made when two or more elements combine in a way that changes how they act. On their own, hydrogen and oxygen are gases. But when

they bond together, they become a liquid: water. This special change is what makes compounds so useful in nature.

Water is essential to life. All plants, animals, and people need it. Our bodies are made of mostly water. We use it to carry nutrients, control body temperature, and get rid of waste. Without water, our organs would stop working, and we couldn't survive.

Plants need water too. They absorb it through their roots and use it during photosynthesis—the process that helps them make food. Without water, plants would dry up and die. That means animals that eat plants would also go hungry. So, water helps the entire food chain!

Water can also dissolve many substances, which makes it a great solvent. This means it can carry vitamins, minerals, and other important chemicals through our bodies and through the soil. That's another reason it's so valuable to life.

What makes water so special is how its tiny molecules are shaped and how they stick together. Water molecules attract each other like magnets. This helps water move up through the roots of tall trees and flow through our veins.

Without compounds like water, life wouldn't exist the way it does. Water isn't just something we drink—it's something every living thing depends on to survive and grow.