

Name _____

The Marvelous Water Cycle: Nature's Never-Ending Journey

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The water cycle is essential for maintaining ecosystems by providing freshwater for plants and animals. It supports biodiversity by sustaining habitats and allowing species to thrive. Changes in the water cycle can lead to habitat loss, water scarcity, and imbalances in ecosystems.
2. Conserving freshwater resources is crucial to ensure a sustainable water cycle. Individuals and communities can contribute by reducing water waste, using water-saving appliances, and adopting responsible irrigation practices. This conservation helps protect the environment and future generations' access to clean water.
3. Climate change can disrupt the water cycle by altering precipitation patterns, causing more severe droughts and floods, and impacting weather systems. These changes can have far-reaching consequences for ecosystems, agriculture, and water resources.
4. The water cycle is globally significant as it sustains life on Earth and supports various sectors, including agriculture, industry, and human survival. Sustainable water management practices are essential to ensure a stable and reliable supply of freshwater resources for people and ecosystems worldwide.

