

Name _____

The Magical Dance of Rain and Snow

Short Answer Key

1. Condensation is the process where water vapor in the air cools and turns into tiny liquid droplets. These droplets come together to form clouds. When there are enough droplets, they combine and become too heavy for the clouds to hold, falling to the ground as rain.
2. Snowflakes are unique because they form from tiny ice crystals in the clouds, and their intricate shapes are influenced by the temperature and humidity in the atmosphere where they grow. No two snowflakes are alike because the conditions in the atmosphere are always slightly different.
3. The main difference between rain and snow is temperature. Rain occurs when the air temperature is above freezing, causing water to remain in liquid form. Snow forms when the air temperature is below freezing, causing the water to freeze into ice crystals before reaching the ground.
4. Sleet is different from hail because sleet forms as tiny ice pellets when raindrops freeze before reaching the ground, while hail forms larger ice pellets when powerful updrafts in thunderstorms carry raindrops upward, where they freeze into layers of ice.
5. Precipitation is important because it provides the water necessary for all living creatures and helps maintain the Earth's natural balance. It fills rivers and lakes, replenishes groundwater, and sustains plant and animal life.

