Name _____

The Sun's Sparkling Role: How It Powers the Water Cycle

Short Answer Key

1. The Sun's energy causes water on Earth's surface to heat up and transform into water vapor, a process known as evaporation.
2. The Sun's energy heats the Earth's surface and the water vapor-laden air within clouds, causing water droplets to form and clouds to develop.
3. The Sun's energy influences the changing seasons by varying the angle and intensity of sunlight, affecting temperature, evaporation rates, and precipitation patterns.
4. Examples of the Sun's influence on climate and weather include its role in the formation of ocean currents, the creation of wind patterns, and the distribution of heat on Earth.
5. Understanding the Sun's role in the water cycle is crucial for studying climate change, as variations in solar radiation can impact Earth's climate over long periods, affecting temperature and precipitation patterns.