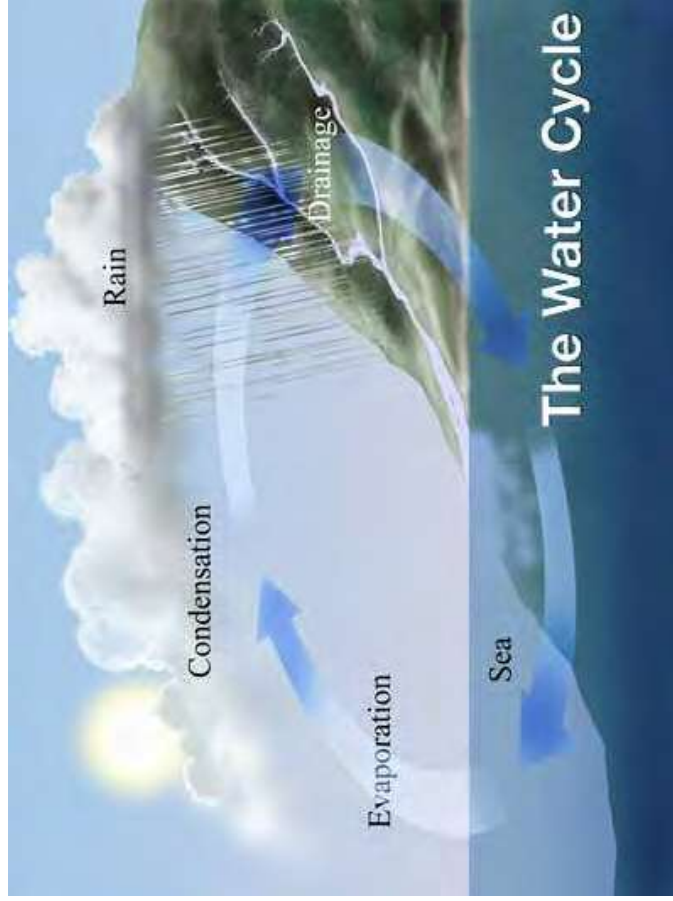


How Does Water Get to a Tap?



passing through pools and lakes on their way. Eventually, every river runs into the sea. This is called drainage.

When the water returns to the sea the whole cycle can start again. Early man would go to a stream or river to collect drinking water. Nowadays, reservoirs (large man-made lakes) are made to collect river water and store it for drinking. Before it gets to your home it is filtered clean in a factory and then piped underground to houses and flats across the country.

Water pipes are always run underground to stop them freezing up. Even in the winter, the ground stores heat from when the sun has been shining.

Rain that falls as snow eventually melts and runs away as groundwater. Rain that falls into puddles very quickly evaporates again.

No matter how hard or for how long it rains, the amount of water on our planet never changes. This is explained by the water cycle. The sun shines on the sea causing it to heat up. The warmer water turns to water vapour, which is a gas. This is called evaporation. The gas rises into the air carrying tiny particles of water with it. Rising air currents take the water vapour up into the atmosphere where cooler temperatures cause it to form clouds. This is called condensation.

Air currents move clouds carrying water vapour around the globe. As clouds are blown over higher ground they are cooled further forming large drops of water, which fall from the sky as rain. If conditions are very cold the water can fall as hail or snow. Some of the raindrops that fall collect on plants and in puddles while others soak into the rocks and soil as groundwater. The groundwater will gradually move downhill to the nearest stream. Streams feed into larger rivers,



How Does Water Get to a Tap?

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

The amount of water on the earth never changes. The sun shines on the sea causing it to

- 1 **cool down.** **bubble.** **heat up.** **boil.**
 The warmer water
- 2 **disappears** **evaporates** **condenses** **floats away**

into the air carrying tiny particles of

- 3 **cloud** **mist** **water** **fish**
 with it. The cooler atmosphere causes the water vapour to form

- 4 **wind.** **rain.** **sun.** **clouds.**

The clouds drop rain over high

- 5 **mountains.** **cliffs.** **ground.** **trees.**

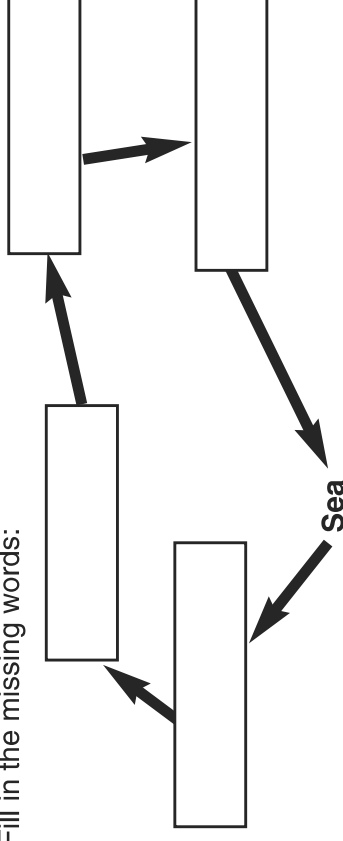
The rain finds its way into rivers which carry the water back to the

- 6 **coast.** **sea.** **lakes.** **ground.**

This is called the Water Cycle.

Section B

- 1 Fill in the missing words:



- 2 Where do raindrops collect when they fall?

- 3 What happens to rain in very cold conditions?

- 4 Where did early man get drinking water?

- 5 Where does our drinking water come from?

- 6 How would you feel about getting your drinking water in the same way as early man?

- 7 Why do you think underground pipes do not freeze up in winter?

- 8 How does a puddle disappear after it has been raining?

Section C

Annotate a simple diagram, which shows how drinking water gets to your house.