

# Droplet and the Water Cycle



**Once upon a time**, high above the earth, fluffy white clouds drifted through the atmosphere. In the clouds lived a little Droplet of water, round and content with life. For as long as he could remember, he spent his days lying on his back, relaxing and soaking up the sun's warm rays. One day, he took his usual place in the sun but the light didn't seem to be as bright. In fact, as the day went on, it grew darker and darker, loud claps of thunder shook the cloud, and the Droplet felt as if he were getting so heavy he could hardly move.

Suddenly, the Droplet felt himself falling from the cloud. Down, down, down he fell, farther and father from home. At last he landed on the earth, in the dark green foliage of the rainforest. Around him as far as he could see were tall trees, dense green leaves, red mushrooms and multicolored insects of every shape and size. Strange creatures surrounded him, and the sounds and sights were like nothing he had ever seen or heard before. All he was sure of was that he wanted to go back home. But how?

And so begins the adventure of Droplet, the water molecule, as he enters the great water cycle- condensation, precipitation, infiltration, runoff, and evapotranspiration-and starts his journey home.

Source: <http://kids.earth.nasa.gov/droplet.html>