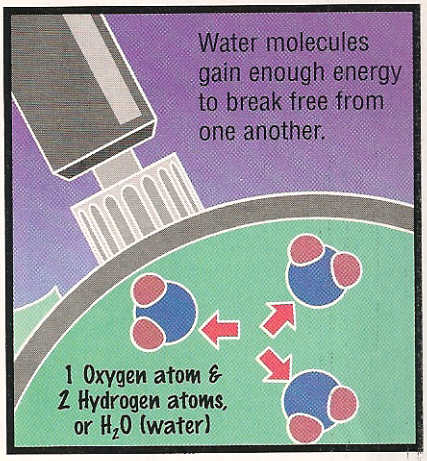
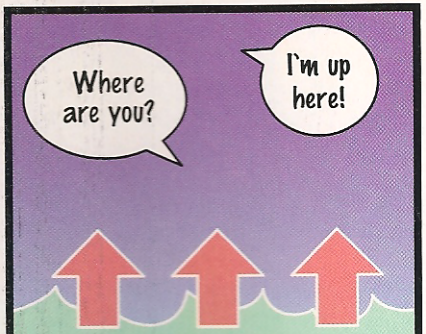
Life of a Raindrop

No break for the raindrop…always changing, alw

1. Evaporation

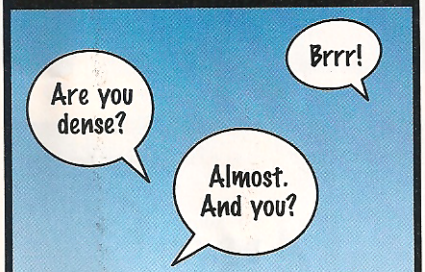
Evaporation occurs when the sun heats water on oceans, lakes, and rivers.



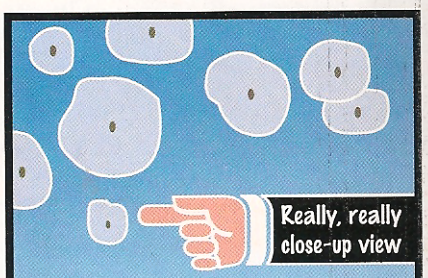


They rise into the air as an invisible gas called water vapor.

2. Condensation



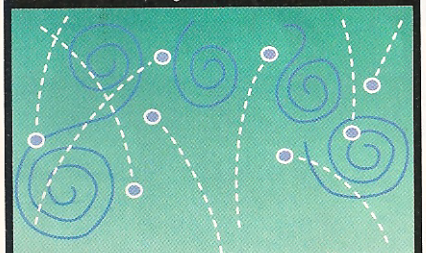
As water vapor rises, it cools. When the air temperature is cool enough, vapor condenses into droplets.



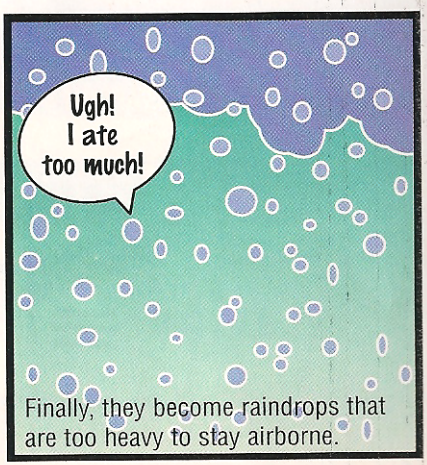
Water droplets form around microscopic bits of dust and salt in the air. These are called condensation nuclei.

Clouds are made up of millions of tiny water droplets with dust specks inside. The darker the cloud, the more water it has.

3. Precipitation



The droplets are still too small to fall. Each one blows up and down in the cloud and combines with millions of other droplets.



Finally, they become raindrops that are too heavy to stay airborne.

Gravity sends them plunging to Earth as precipitation at an average speed of 14 miles per hour.