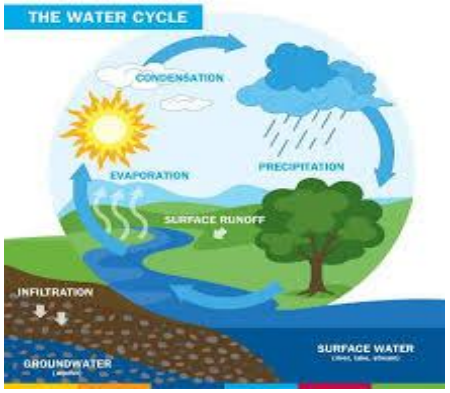
ASHFIELD VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL – YEAR 4 GEOGRAPHY – HOW DOES WATER TRAVEL IN A CYCLE?



Facts about Rivers

- Rivers start off as tiny streams flowing down mountains. Small streams run together, growing larger and larger until they can be called a river.
- Rivers always flow downhill.
- A river ends by flowing into an ocean, lake or a bigger river.
- Humans build towns and cities around large rivers so they can use them for transport, water supply, hydroelectric power, watering crops, tourism and leisure.
- The River in the picture above is the River Thames in London. This river has played an important part in UK history for 2000 years

The water cycle starts when water on the surface of the earth evaporates (think about how a puddle disappears on a sunny day).

Next, water collects as water vapour in the sky, then cools and turns into clouds (condensation)..

Then, the water in the clouds gets cold and falls back down to earth as rain, sleet, hail or snow (precipitation).

The water that falls collects in oceans, rivers, lakes and streams (collection).

Key Vocabulary

Source – the beginning of a river

Spring – groundwater that comes up to the surface

Tributary – a stream that joins a large stream or river

Bank – the two sides of a river channel

Bed – the bottom of a river channel

Estuary – the area where the river widens out before it meets the sea

Mouth – the end of the river where it meets the sea

Evaporation – when water changes from liquid to gas due to heat.

Condensation – when water vapour cools and turns into clouds.

Precipitation – rain, hail, sleet and snow that falls from the clouds.

Collection - when water that falls from the clouds, collects in the oceans, rivers, lakes, streams. Most will soak into the ground and will collect as underground water.