

Water Cycle Story

This is the story of Wanda the Water Droplet. Wanda had been hanging out for many, many years in the ocean, deep enough that she had never really seen bright light. One day, a large whale came along and swooped her into his mouth, and as he reached the surface, he sprayed her out into the air. Now, Wanda found herself floating along the top of the ocean, and as the day heated up, she could feel herself changing... changing into a gas form... she was _____ (**evaporating**)! Up into the air Wanda flew, and even though she was invisible, she could feel other water droplets all around her. Higher and higher into the sky, the air started to cool, and Wanda and the other water droplets around her eventually became a cloud, in the process of _____ (**condensation**). As a cloud, Wanda and her water droplet buddies traveled far, pushed by the wind during _____ (**transportation**), until crash, they hit a mountain. Suddenly, Wanda became heavier, and started to gently float down towards the ground as snow, a type of _____ (**precipitation**). Flying through the air, then smash, Wanda hit the ground. At first, she felt a little shocked, but it was warmer on the ground, and she was back to her familiar liquid form as she became _____ (**snowmelt**). She didn't have too much time to think about it, though, because she was on a hill, and gravity started pulling her down. All around her, she saw other water droplets soaking into the ground, as groundwater _____ (**infiltration**). But not Wanda! With so many other water droplets gathering and chasing each other down the hill, Wanda instead became _____ (**surface flow**). Some of the other droplets collected in streams and ended up in lakes, becoming _____ (**freshwater storage**), while other droplets continued on their way back to the ocean, as _____ (**river discharge**). Finally, Wanda began to slow down, thanks to all the tree roots and deep soil of the forest. She came to a rest near the base of a tree and soaked into the ground beneath it. A minute, a day or a year later (because water droplets can't tell time), Wanda had this strange feeling of being sucked out of the ground and travelled all the way up the tree trunk and out to the leaves of the giant old oak. As she reached the very tip of the leaf, she once again found herself up in the air, released by the tree as _____ (**transpiration**). Wanda felt such joy and couldn't wait to see what adventures she would have next!