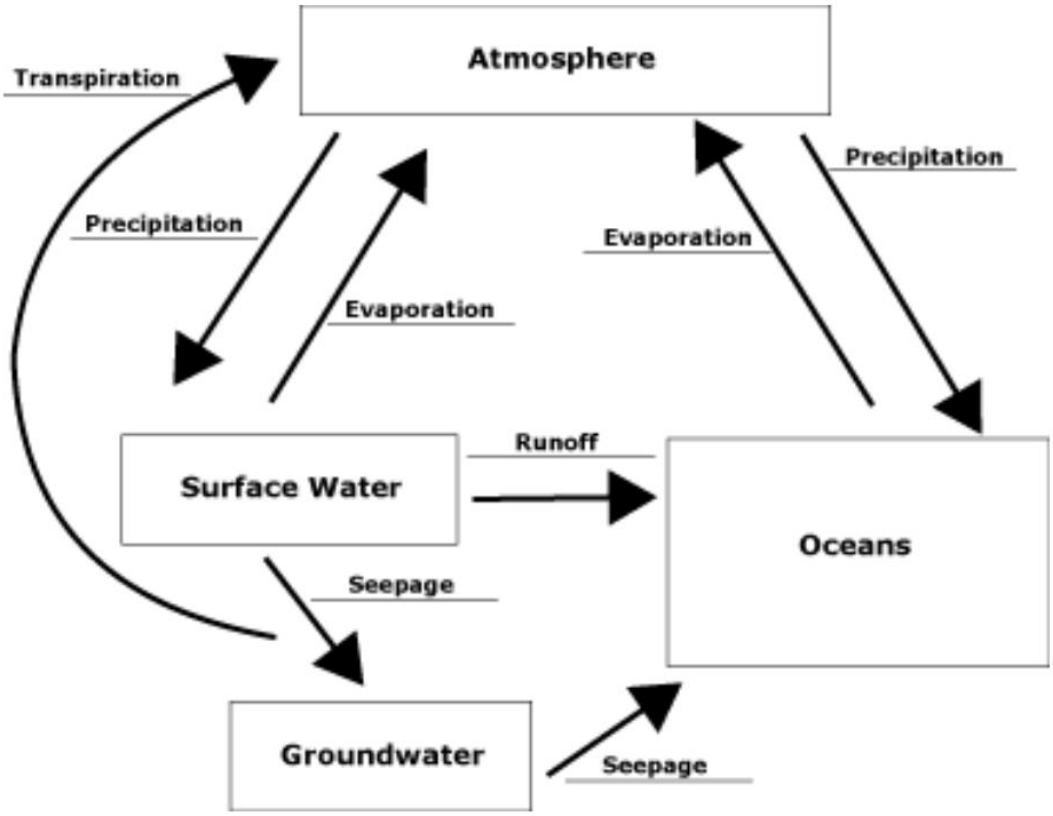
The Water Cycle

Real World Ecosystems
Learner Worksheet Answer Key
Grade Level: 5-8

Part A

Label the diagram, using the terms given in the table to the right of the diagram. Terms can be used one time only, unless otherwise specified. For example, if a term says (x3) after it, that term can be used in three places on the diagram.



Part B

1. **Imagine that you are a water molecule and part of a snowflake. Trace a path that you might take through one complete water cycle.**
   This could be simple or complex depending upon where the water goes or the path it follows. Terms that should appear could include any of the following: melting, precipitation, condensation, evaporation, freezing.

2. **Explain the meaning of each of the following terms in such a way that the relationship between them in the water cycle is clearly understood.**

   a. **Precipitation:** Water, which may fall upon the earth I the form of rain, snow, sleet or hail.

   b. **Groundwater:** Underground streams, water in spaces between soil particles as well as in ponds, lakes, rivers, and so on.

   c. **Evaporation:** The transformation of liquid water to gaseous water vapour, evaporation of water from a lake into the atmosphere.

   d. **Transpiration:** Loss of water through evaporation from leaves and plants.

   e. **Condensation:** When water vapour (a gas) cools, it changes in state to liquid water in the process of condensation.

   f. **Runoff:** When there is too much water flowing too fast over the Earth's surface, it runs off the land into available spaces such as lakes or rivers.

3. **Living organisms consist of** 50 **to** 90 **% water.**

4. **One consequence of** global warming **will probably be decreased rainfall and depleted groundwater.**