Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Text Features & Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.

The Water Cycle

What Is the Water Cycle?

The water cycle is the way water moves through Earth's air, land, and oceans. It never stops and always follows the same path.

Evaporation

The first step is **evaporation**. When the sun heats up water from lakes, rivers, or oceans, the water turns into vapor and rises into the air.

Condensation

Next comes **condensation**. As water vapor rises, it cools and changes into tiny droplets. These droplets form clouds.

Precipitation

When the clouds get heavy, the water falls back to Earth as **precipitation**—rain, snow, or hail.

Collection

The last step is **collection**. Water collects in lakes, rivers, and oceans. Some soaks into the ground. Then the cycle starts again.

Name:

Explore the Rainforest!

1. Why did the author use bold headings in this passage?

A. To show the four main parts of the water cycle

B. To name different types of water

C. To explain how oceans are made

D. To compare plants and animals

2. How does the organization of this text help the reader?

A. It breaks the water cycle into easy-to-understand parts

B. It shows how to build a water machine

C. It tells a story about a river

D. It explains how rocks are formed

3. Fill in the blank:

When water vapor cools and forms clouds, it is called _____.

4. How do the bold headings and structure help you understand the water cycle?

_____

_____

_____

5. What would be confusing if the information wasn't divided into sections?

_____

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Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: O
Lexile Level: 590L-740L
Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Middle of the Year
Genre: Informational / Earth Science

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read about the water cycle. As we go through the text, we'll look at how the author organizes the information using bold headings and sectioned steps. We'll talk about how that structure helps us learn each part more clearly."

Vocabulary: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, collection, vapor

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you heard of the water cycle before?
2. Why do you think water needs to move through different stages?
3. How might organizing the cycle into parts help us understand it better?

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What happens during evaporation?
2. How does condensation lead to precipitation?
3. Why is it important for water to be collected after it falls?

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What text features helped you understand the water cycle?
2. How would the passage be different without headings?
3. Why is it helpful to learn science in clear steps like this?

Activity Idea

Have students create a labeled water cycle wheel using four sections—evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection. In each section, they'll draw a scene and write one sentence explaining what happens. Then they'll explain how the structure of the text helped them complete their diagram.