

Why Does It Rain?

Have you ever looked up at the sky and wondered why drops of water suddenly fall from the clouds? Rain might feel ordinary, but it is part of a **remarkable** system that keeps our planet alive. Without rain, rivers would dry, crops would fail, and life on Earth would be impossible.

Rain begins with the sun. The sun's heat causes water from oceans, lakes, and rivers to **evaporate**—turn from liquid into gas. This invisible water vapour rises into the sky. As it climbs higher, the air becomes colder. The vapour then cools and **condenses**, turning back into tiny droplets of water. These droplets gather together to form clouds.

Not all clouds produce rain. For rain to fall, the droplets must join and grow until they are heavy enough to be pulled down by **gravity**. When millions of droplets tumble from the sky, we experience a shower or storm. If the air is very cold, the water may freeze, creating hail or snow instead of rain.

Rain is a key part of the **water cycle**, the endless journey of water around our planet. After rain falls, it runs into streams and rivers, eventually returning to the sea. From there, it can evaporate again, repeating the cycle. This process keeps fresh water moving and ensures that animals, plants, and people have the supplies they need.

The amount of rain that falls in different places can be very **variable**. Deserts may go for months without a single drop, while rainforests can receive heavy rainfall almost every day. Scientists measure rainfall carefully because it affects farming, drinking water, and even the risk of floods.

Too little rain can cause a **drought**, when the land becomes dry and crops cannot grow. Too much rain, on the other hand, may lead to dangerous **flooding**. Both extremes remind us that balance is essential for healthy environments.

Rain also shapes our landscape. Over time, falling water can **erode** rocks and soil, carving valleys and carrying minerals to new places. This slow but powerful force has created some of the world's most impressive landforms.

So next time you see dark clouds forming, think of the science above your head. Rain is not just water falling from the sky; it is part of a huge, interconnected system that is as ordinary as it is extraordinary.

Glossary

1. **Remarkable** – worthy of attention; extraordinary.
2. **Evaporate** – to change from liquid into gas.
3. **Condenses** – changes from gas back into liquid.
4. **Gravity** – the force that pulls things down toward the Earth.
5. **Water cycle** – the constant movement of water between land, sea, and air.
6. **Variable** – likely to change; not always the same.
7. **Drought** – a long period without enough rain.
8. **Flooding** – when too much water covers normally dry land.
9. **Erode** – to wear away or break down rock, soil, or land over time.
10. **Interconnected** – linked together in a way that each part depends on the others.