**Chapter 11, Section One Teacher Notes**

Water covers **71%,** or almost three-quarters, of the Earth’s surface.

Water can exist as a **solid, liquid, or a gas.**

Earth consists of four oceans: **Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and Arctic.**

Without water, nothing would live on Earth. Living things need **water** to function.

Your body is **two-thirds** water.

**Fresh water** is water that is not salty and has little or no taste, color, or smell. Most rivers and lakes

are fresh water.

**Salt water** is water that contains dissolved salts and other minerals. The water in the ocean is salt water.

About **97%** of Earth’s water is salt water. Only about **3%** of Earth’s water is fresh water.

The **water cycle** is the continuous movement of water throughout the environment of Earth.

The water cycle involves three major processes: **evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.**

The process in which water changes from a liquid to vapor is called **evaporation**. Heat energy from the **Sun** warms the surface of a body of water and causes water to **evaporate**.

The process in which water vapor in the atmosphere becomes liquid is called **condensation**. Condensation occurs as air **cools**. As the air cools, water vapor turns into drops of liquid water which forms **clouds**.

Water that falls from clouds is **precipitation**. Inside a cloud, water droplets bump together and form larger droplets. When they become heavy enough, they fall to Earth as precipitation.

The water from precipitation sinks into the soil or flows into streams and rivers in a process called **runoff**. The force of **gravity** pulls flowing water downward and, in most cases, eventually to the ocean.

Most of the water that evaporates on Earth evaporates from the **ocean** (85%).

Even though the water that evaporates into the atmosphere comes from both the salty ocean and from fresh water on land, all the precipitation that falls back to the surface is **fresh** water.

When salt water evaporates, the **salt** is left behind.