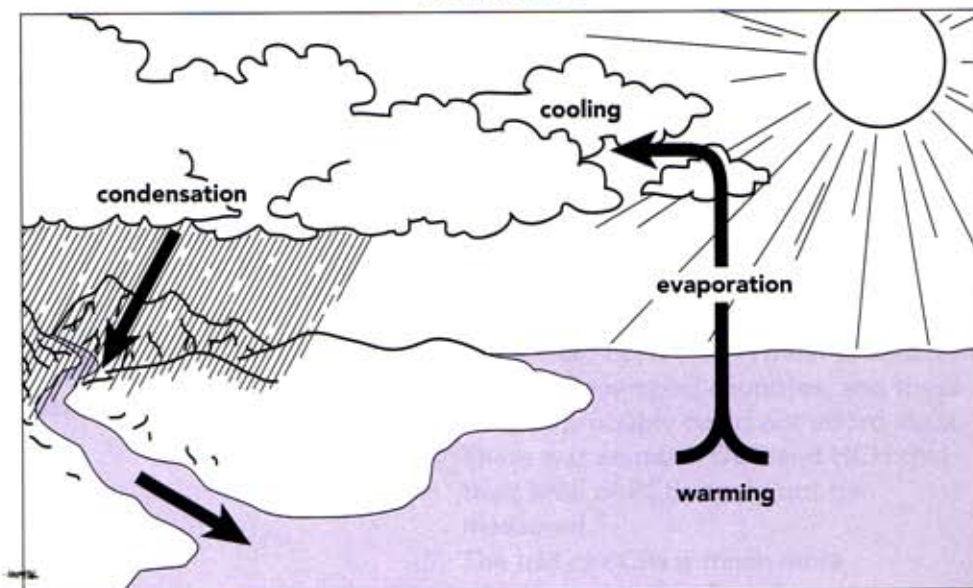


Hazardous wastes come from the hundreds of chemicals that we produce and use in the United States. These chemicals include house paints, automotive oils and fluids, as well as many poisons used by farmers. Safely disposing of these wastes is an enormous problem. More and more states are trying to control how these hazardous wastes are handled.

Water

The water on Earth today is the same water that was present billions of years ago when Earth first formed. Water evaporates from the oceans and rises into the sky as clouds. There water condenses and falls to the ground as rain or snow. The water then trickles down through the earth or rushes into streams. Eventually it returns to the oceans, and the cycle begins again.

WATER CYCLE



The water that your great-great-grandchildren will drink may contain the same water molecules that you use today to wash your hands. Pollution does not reduce our supply of water, but it does make it unsafe.

Many pollutants, such as fertilizers from farms and chemicals from mines and factories, pollute water. As rain forms, it picks up pollutants in the air and becomes acidic. This acid rain then falls onto trees, buildings, the soil, lakes, and streams. The result is dead and dying trees, crumbling buildings, poisonous soil, and lakes with no plant or animal life.