

Weather & the Water Cycle — Knowledge Organiser

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Key facts

- New Zealand's weather is wet and changeable, shaped by the surrounding sea.
- Water moves in a cycle: it evaporates, forms clouds, and falls as rain.
- Mountains catch a lot of rain, especially the western South Island.
- The water cycle keeps rivers and lakes filled.

Key vocabulary

- Evaporate — turn from liquid to gas.
- Condense — turn from gas to liquid (clouds).
- Precipitation — rain, snow or hail.
- Water cycle — water's journey through the environment.

Round and round

The Sun evaporates water from the sea; it forms clouds, falls as rain on the land, and flows back to the sea — the water cycle.

Rainy mountains

New Zealand's mountains force clouds upward, dropping huge amounts of rain — the West Coast is one of the wettest places around.