

Active recall practice

Use these two pages for one small topic. Print a fresh copy for each session.

1 Close notes After a short study session, write four questions. Then hide the source.

2 Retrieve Answer from memory. Guess or leave a gap if you are unsure.

3 Check Open the source and compare each answer with the evidence.

4 Correct Write what was missing or wrong. Hide the answer and retry.

5 Revisit Choose another practice time using your results and study needs.

Topic: _____ Date: _____

Source and page or section: _____

QUESTION 1

My answer from memory

Confidence before checking: Low / Medium / High

QUESTION 2

My answer from memory

Confidence before checking: Low / Medium / High

QUESTION 3

My answer from memory

Confidence before checking: Low / Medium / High

QUESTION 4

My answer from memory

Confidence before checking: Low / Medium / High

Check correct and retry

Keep your first answers. Use the source to see exactly what needs work.

Mark each result: Correct / Partly correct / Needs work. Record a useful correction, then close the source before retrying.

QUESTION 1 Result: Correct / Partly correct / Needs work

Key idea or correction, checked against my source

Retry from memory after hiding the source and correction

After checking the retry: Correct / Partly correct / Needs work

QUESTION 2 Result: Correct / Partly correct / Needs work

Key idea or correction, checked against my source

Retry from memory after hiding the source and correction

After checking the retry: Correct / Partly correct / Needs work

QUESTION 3 Result: Correct / Partly correct / Needs work

Key idea or correction, checked against my source

Retry from memory after hiding the source and correction

After checking the retry: Correct / Partly correct / Needs work

QUESTION 4 Result: Correct / Partly correct / Needs work

Key idea or correction, checked against my source

Retry from memory after hiding the source and correction

After checking the retry: Correct / Partly correct / Needs work

CHOOSE THE NEXT PRACTICE

Revisit questions: _____ On or around: _____

Why this timing fits my results, deadline, or available time:

Start sooner when important ideas are still missing. If recall is accurate and easy, try a longer gap. Adjust after each attempt; there is no fixed interval required.

Recall the water cycle

A worked example showing an honest first attempt, including one mistake.

STUDY THIS SHORT PASSAGE

Evaporation changes liquid water into water vapor. Condensation changes water vapor into liquid droplets, which can form clouds. Precipitation is water falling from clouds as rain, snow, sleet, or hail. Water collects in places such as rivers, lakes, and oceans, where some can evaporate again.

To try it yourself, cover the passage and the example answers. Use the four questions on a blank copy. Open the answer key only after answering.

QUESTION 1

What happens during evaporation?

First answer: Liquid water turns into water vapor, which is a gas.

Confidence before checking: High

QUESTION 2

How is condensation different from evaporation?

First answer: Condensation is when water falls from clouds. Evaporation is when liquid water turns into gas.

Confidence before checking: Medium

QUESTION 3

What is precipitation? Give two examples.

First answer: Water falling from clouds, such as rain and snow.

Confidence before checking: High

QUESTION 4

After water collects in a lake, what process can return it to the atmosphere? Explain the change of state.

First answer: Evaporation can return it to the atmosphere. Liquid water in the lake changes into water vapor.

Confidence before checking: Medium

This is a simplified model. The full water cycle has other routes and no single starting point.

Check the answer key

Compare ideas, not exact wording. A confident answer can still need correction.

1 Evaporation

Liquid water changes into water vapor, a gas.

Result for the first answer: Correct

2 Condensation and evaporation

Condensation changes water vapor into liquid droplets, often as moist air cools. Evaporation changes liquid water into vapor.

Result for the first answer: Needs work

3 Precipitation

Water falling from clouds. Any two examples: rain, snow, sleet, or hail.

Result for the first answer: Correct

4 Water returning from a lake

Evaporation changes liquid water in the lake into water vapor in the atmosphere.

Result for the first answer: Correct

CORRECT QUESTION 2

I mixed up condensation and precipitation. Condensation makes liquid droplets from water vapor. Precipitation is water falling from clouds.

Retry with the source and correction hidden: "Condensation turns water vapor into liquid droplets. Evaporation does the reverse: liquid water becomes vapor."

Checked retry: Correct. I explained both changes of state without looking.

CHOOSE THE NEXT PRACTICE

Example choice: Retry question 2 later today because I confused the terms. Try all four questions tomorrow if that fits my schedule. If recall is still accurate, leave a longer gap next time.

These are adjustable choices, not a required timetable. My answers and study needs decide the next step.

Science reference: USGS Water Science School, Water cycle
www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school/water-cycle