



Splish's Incredible Water Cycle Adventure

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Splish was a happy water droplet sitting lazily on the warm surface of the sunny blue ocean. He loved bobbing up and down with the waves, but he knew that a grand journey was about to begin. As the golden morning sun shone down brightly, Splish began to feel warmer and warmer.



As the sun grew hotter, Splish experienced evaporation. Evaporation happens when heat turns liquid water into an invisible gas called water vapor. Feeling lighter than air, Splish lifted off the ocean's surface and floated gently up into the wide blue sky.



As Splish drifted upward, he noticed millions of tiny vapor droplets rising from a forest below through a process called transpiration. Transpiration occurs when plants release extra water vapor from tiny holes in their leaves into the warm air. Splish waved hello as the new vapor droplets joined him on his skyward journey.



Floating high above the ground, the air became very cold, causing condensation to take place. Condensation happens when chilly temperatures cool water vapor down, transforming it back into liquid droplets. Splish cooled off and bunched together with billions of other droplets to form a fluffy, floating white cloud.



Splish drifted across the sky inside his cloud, gathering more and more water friends along the way. As the cloud grew crowded, it changed from a bright white blanket into a heavy, dark grey storm cloud. Splish felt ready for the thrilling next step of his cycle.



Soon, the cloud became far too heavy to hold all the water droplets, triggering precipitation. Precipitation is when water falls from the sky back down to Earth as rain, snow, sleet, or hail. Splish giggled as he tumbled out of the cloud and zoomed toward the ground in a bright splash of rain.



Splish landed with a gentle plop on the chilly peak of a high green mountain. He took in the fresh air and looked down the long slope ahead, excited for the path that would carry him home.



Splish began traveling down the mountain through a stage called runoff. Runoff occurs when rainwater flows across the land's surface into streams, rivers, and lakes instead of soaking into the soil. Splish slid down rocks and squiggled across green grass like a fun natural waterslide.



The mountain stream merged into a wide, winding river that splashed through lush valleys and busy meadows. Animals stopped by the riverbank to take a refreshing drink while Splish glided smoothly along the sparkling current.



At last, the river flowed straight back into the giant blue ocean where Splish had started. Floating lazily under the warm sun once again, Splish smiled, knowing that his journey around the water cycle would soon begin all over again.