

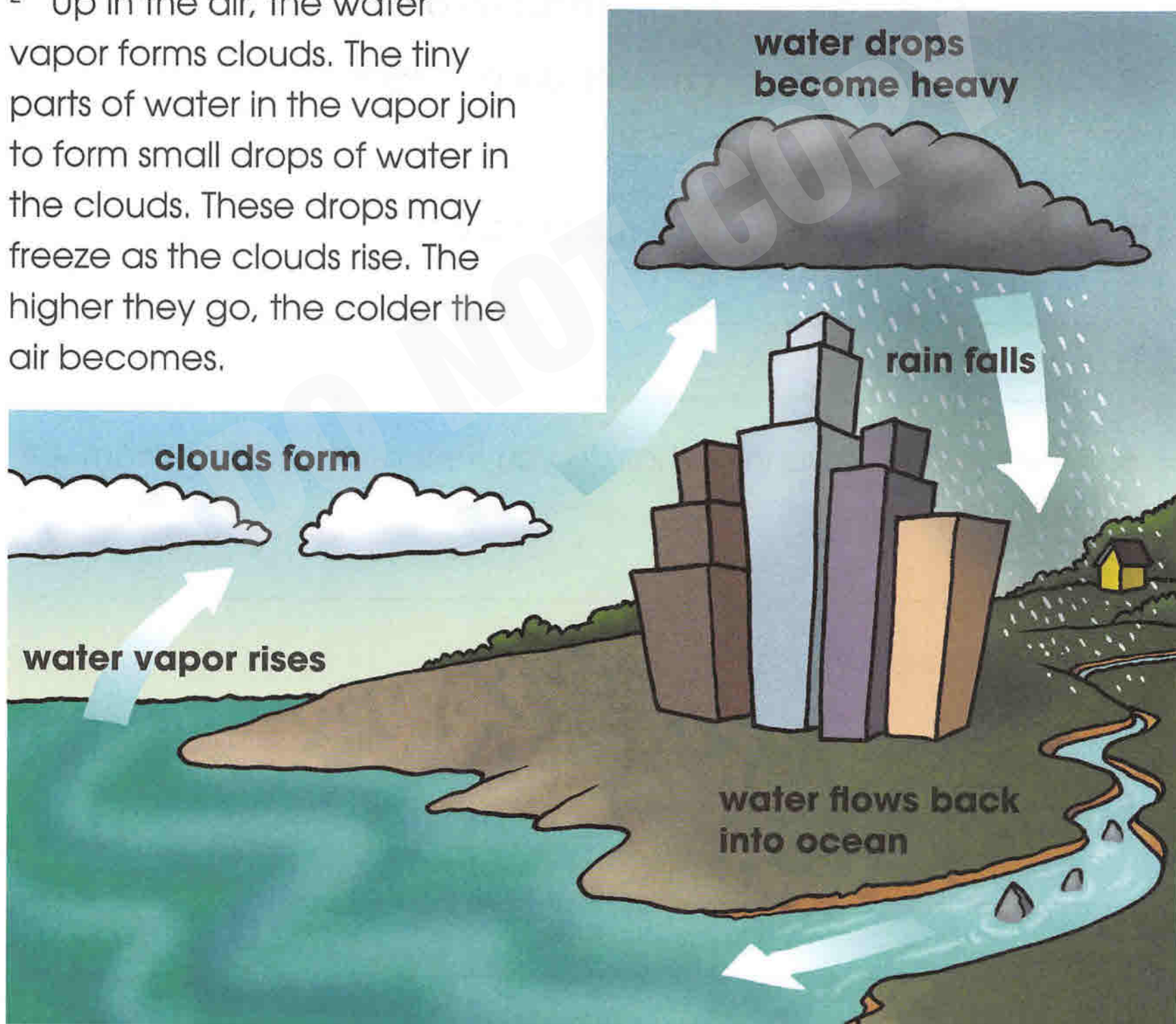
Clouds and Rain Today

Read to find out why it rains.

¹ Water is all around us—in lakes, rivers, streams, oceans, and even puddles. Heat from the sun causes tiny parts of that water to rise into the air. Those tiny parts are called *water vapor*.

² Up in the air, the water vapor forms clouds. The tiny parts of water in the vapor join to form small drops of water in the clouds. These drops may freeze as the clouds rise. The higher they go, the colder the air becomes.

³ When the water drops in the cloud get too heavy, they fall back to the ground. The water falls as rain, snow, hail, or sleet. Some of the water flows back into rivers, streams, and the ocean. The next time the sun shines, the cycle starts all over again.



1. Write **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** by these sentences to show the correct order of the steps in the water cycle.

_____ Rain, snow, hail, or sleet falls to the ground.

_____ Water vapor rises and forms clouds.

_____ The sun's heat causes water to form water vapor.

_____ Water drops form and become heavy.

2. Look at the picture of the water cycle. What do the arrows above the ocean tell you?

3. Explain the water cycle in your own words.

4. What happens when the water drops in a cloud get too heavy?

5. What rises up into the air to form clouds?

_____ water vapor _____ hail _____ snow

6. Name three places you can find water in nature.

7. Here is an effect: **Water vapor rises into the air.** What is the cause?
