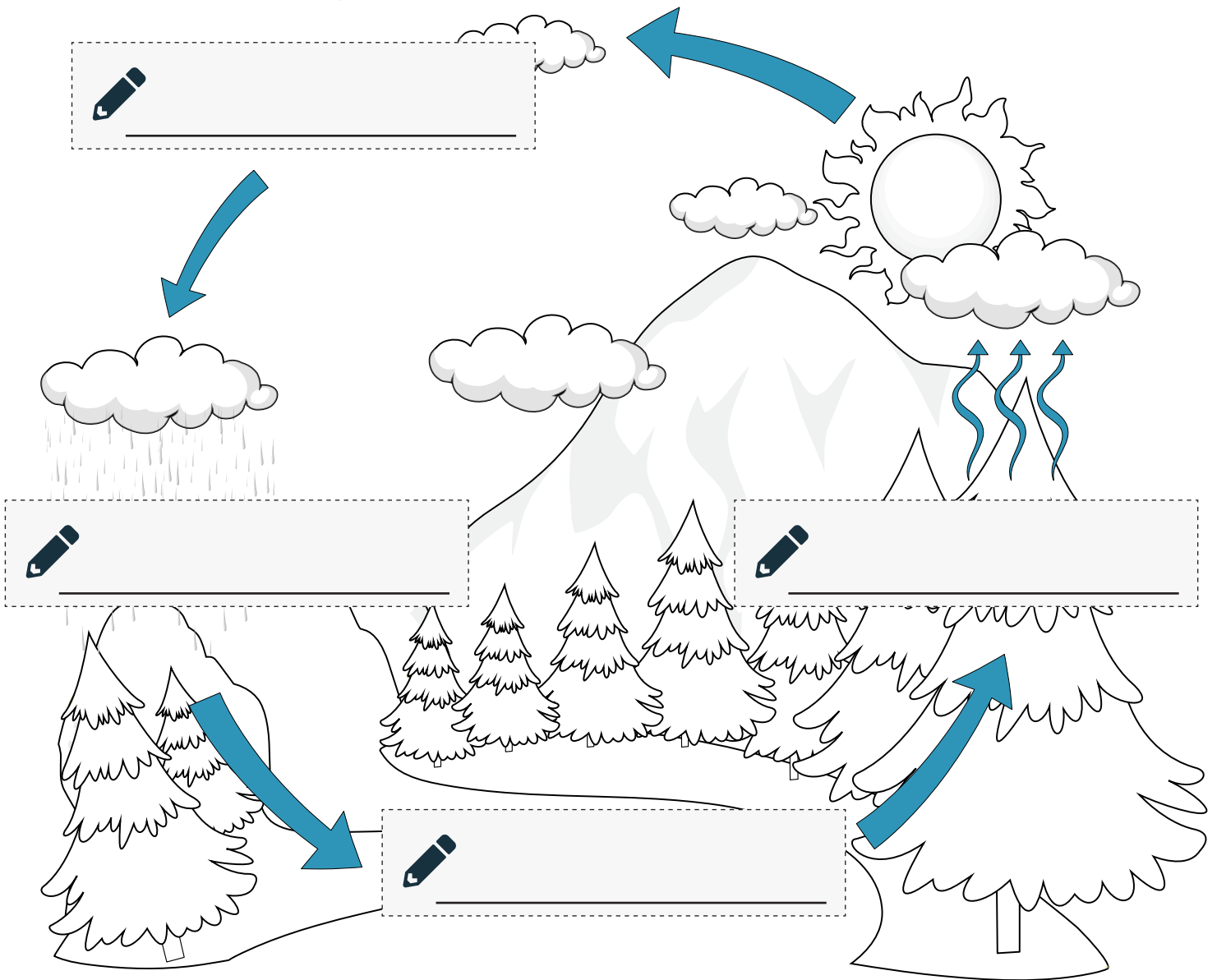


# THE Water Cycle

Water is always in motion. It flows and moves between the Earth and sky. This is called the **water cycle**, or hydrologic cycle.

**Study and color the water cycle:** Study the water cycle illustration on page 2, then follow the arrows and fill in the blanks by choosing one of the key words in the list below.



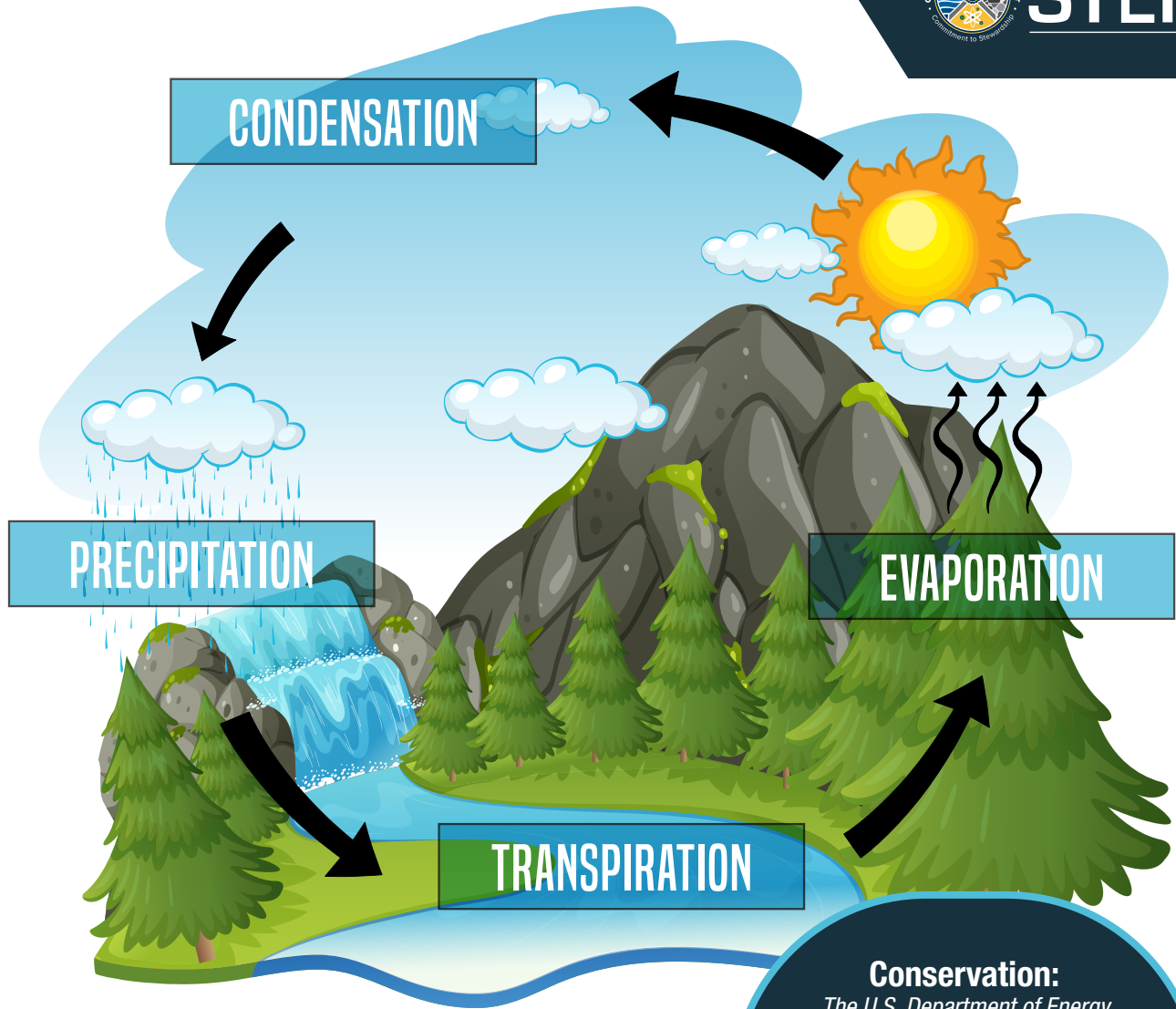
**WATER CYCLE:**

EVAPORATION

CONDENSATION

PRECIPITATION

TRANSPIRATION



**Conservation:**  
*The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management protects the Earth's water cycle by reducing water consumption at its sites, monitoring groundwater, collecting annual water data, and using modern conservation technology to ensure clean water for all. Learn more at: <https://www.energy.gov/lm/articles/water-conservation>*

**Oceans, Lakes, and Rivers:** Water gathers and is stored in oceans, lakes, and rivers. These are used by all living things including fish, animals, and humans.

**Sun:** The sun shines on bodies of water. **EVAPORATION** causes the water to become a gas or vapor, moving into the air to form clouds.

**Plants:** Trees and plants take water from the ground and move it into the air in a process called **TRANSPIRATION**.

**Clouds:** **CONDENSATION** occurs when vapor collects on the cold surface, such as a cloud, forming water droplets.

**Rain:** Occurs when clouds can no longer hold the amount of water it has collected. The water falls back to the Earth in the form of rain or snow, depending on seasonal temperatures. This is called **PRECIPITATION**.

**Age Level:** 6-11 (elementary).  
**Key Definitions:** Water Cycle, Evaporation, Transpiration, Condensation, Precipitation.  
**Objective:** To learn the biological process of the water cycle.