THE WATER CYCLE

Water moves around the world. The movement of water from the AIR to the earth and back up again is called the WATER CYCLE. OCEANs contain the most water. This water tastes salty. EVAPORATION is the movement of water from oceans, LAKES, rivers, and the ground into the air. We see water in the air as CLOUDs and fog. WINDs move the clouds to distant places.

PRECIPITATION falls in the form of RAIN, sleet, snow, and hail. If it rains over land water seeps into the ground, or flows down hills and mountains into RIVERs and streams. ANIMALS drink water from lakes, rivers and underground sources.

As water infiltrates the soil it collects UNDERGROUND. This water slowly moves back up to the surface via CAPILLARY RISE. Water can also travel to the SURFACE via plant roots. Water travels into PLANT roots and out of plant leaves.

During winter and when air TEMPERATUREs are below freezing, we get snow. If it stays very cold this snow does not melt. As snow packs into ICE glaciers form. GLACIERs hold lots of fresh water. An "Ice Age" is a long period of freezing temperatures. Glaciers traveled into Indiana during the last two Ice Ages.