Almost three-fourths of the Earth's surface is covered in water. All living things depend on water for their survival.

Think about the neighborhood where you live or go to school. Is there a body of water nearby, such as an ocean or river? That's part of the hydrosphere.

Water in the oceans, clouds, lakes, rivers, and even underground is connected through the water cycle. Water is used and reused again and again by living organisms.

If you surf, swim, ski or snowboard, you come into direct contact with the hydrosphere. In fact, you could not spend more than 48 hours without drinking water. Without it you'd be sunk.

Human beings can affect the world's water supply. For example, in the USA we consume 300 billion liters (79 billion gallons) of water every single day.

QUESTION: Can you think of other ways that we affect the world's watery sphere? How could you conserve water in your home?
The Water Cycle

Water covers 70% of the earth's surface and is vital to all living things. Water is always circulating between the earth's surface and the atmosphere in the water cycle.

Heat from the sun makes water evaporate from the oceans, rivers and lakes forming water vapor.

As the water vapor rises it cools and starts to condense and become water again. This forms clouds.

As the clouds get cooler the water droplets become bigger and bigger. Eventually they fall as rain, snow, sleet, or hail.

The water then runs back into the streams, rivers, lakes and ocean and the cycle repeats!

THE WATER CYCLE POEM

The heat from the sun shines down on the lake
And causes some water to evaporate
Evaporated water rises up to the sky
And changes into clouds that we see passing by
Along comes the wind and blows them around
And that's what makes the rain
that falls to the ground