

Match the correct word to its definition below.

poles

process

cycle



a) A series of events that happens over and over again.

ice caps



b) The solid sheets of ice covering the North and South poles of Earth.

c) An activity in nature that is always going on.

d) The land at the top and bottom of Earth's axis.



There is more water vapor in the atmosphere than any of the other greenhouse gases. But the effect of water vapor on global temperature is difficult to understand, because water vapor plays a role in so many processes.



Water is always moving between the atmosphere and Earth's surface in a process called the **water cycle**. Water can exist on Earth in three states: solid, liquid, or gas. Water is always changing from one state to another. When temperatures are warmer, more liquid water on Earth's surface evaporates and becomes water vapor in the atmosphere. When Earth is cooler, more water vapor comes out of the atmosphere, changing to rain or snow. The ice caps on Earth's poles grow and shrink as global temperature falls and rises.

The Water Cycle

