

If I Were a Drop of Water

By Timothy Liu

Age 9

As a drop of water, I would probably start out in a puddle, lake, river, stream, pond, or ocean, as part of the liquid (water) there. When the sun came out, it would start to heat the water. When the water got hot enough I would evaporate. I would turn into water vapor, the gas form of water, and float up into the atmosphere. The higher into the atmosphere I went with the other water vapor droplets, the colder it would become. It would be so cold that I would condense, or turn from water vapor back into liquid water. When I condensed, I would join together with other droplets to form a cloud. Depending on the temperature in the cloud, I might change. If the temperature in the atmosphere surrounding the cloud didn't get cold enough for me to change, I would stay as water. I would stick together with other droplets of water until we got too heavy and fell out of the cloud as rain. If the air near the ground were cold enough for me to change into ice, water's solid form, I would come out of the cloud as rain, but finish on land as sleet. If the air in the atmosphere surrounding the cloud were cold enough, I would change to ice, and then I would stick together with the other bits of ice until we got too heavy and fell from the cloud as snow. However, if the air near the ground were warm enough to turn me back into water, I would come out of the cloud as snow, but end up on land as rain. Wind would matter, too. If I were snow just beginning to fall out of a cloud, and the wind blew me back into the cloud, I would get another layer of ice. If that happened over and over before I finally fell out of the cloud, I would land on the ground as hail. But no matter what, the H₂O, including me, would evaporate again, and the water cycle would start all over.