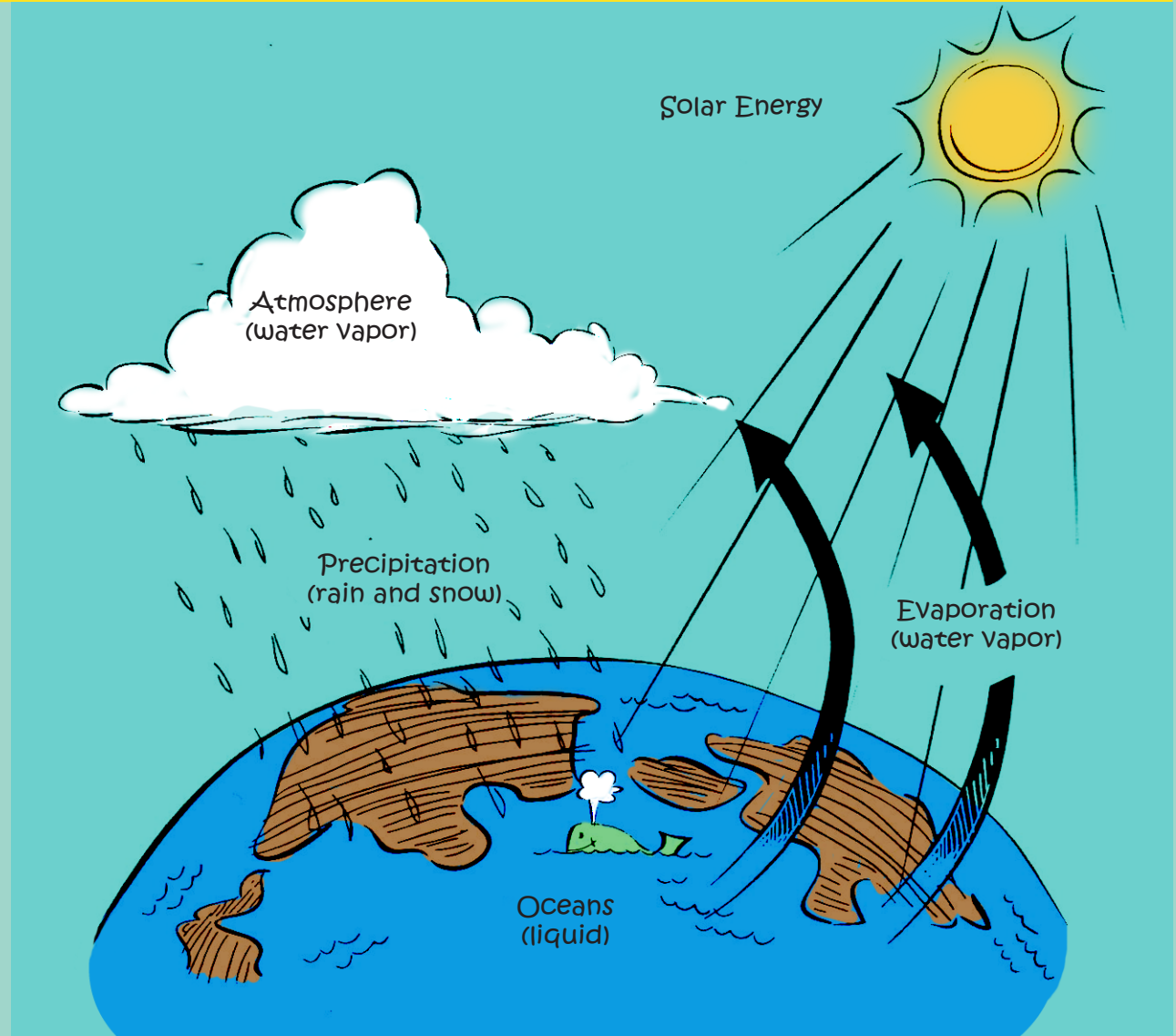


The Water Cycle

Energy from the sun powers the water cycle. It causes water to **EVAPORATE** from oceans, rivers, lakes and even puddles. “Evaporate” means water turns from liquid to gas, or “vapor,” and then rises into the atmosphere. Another form of evaporation is **TRANSPIRATION**, which is when water given off through the pores of plants and animals joins the atmosphere. **CONDENSATION** happens when the water vapor condenses around and clings to fine particles of air. As the air gets moister, droplets that form clouds get larger and larger. Eventually, **PRECIPITATION** returns these droplets to earth as rain, snow, sleet or hail. The cycle can then begin again.



Graphic Source: Energy for Keeps, Creating Clean Electricity from Renewable Resources
by Marilyn Nemzer, Deborah Page and Anna Carter, 2010