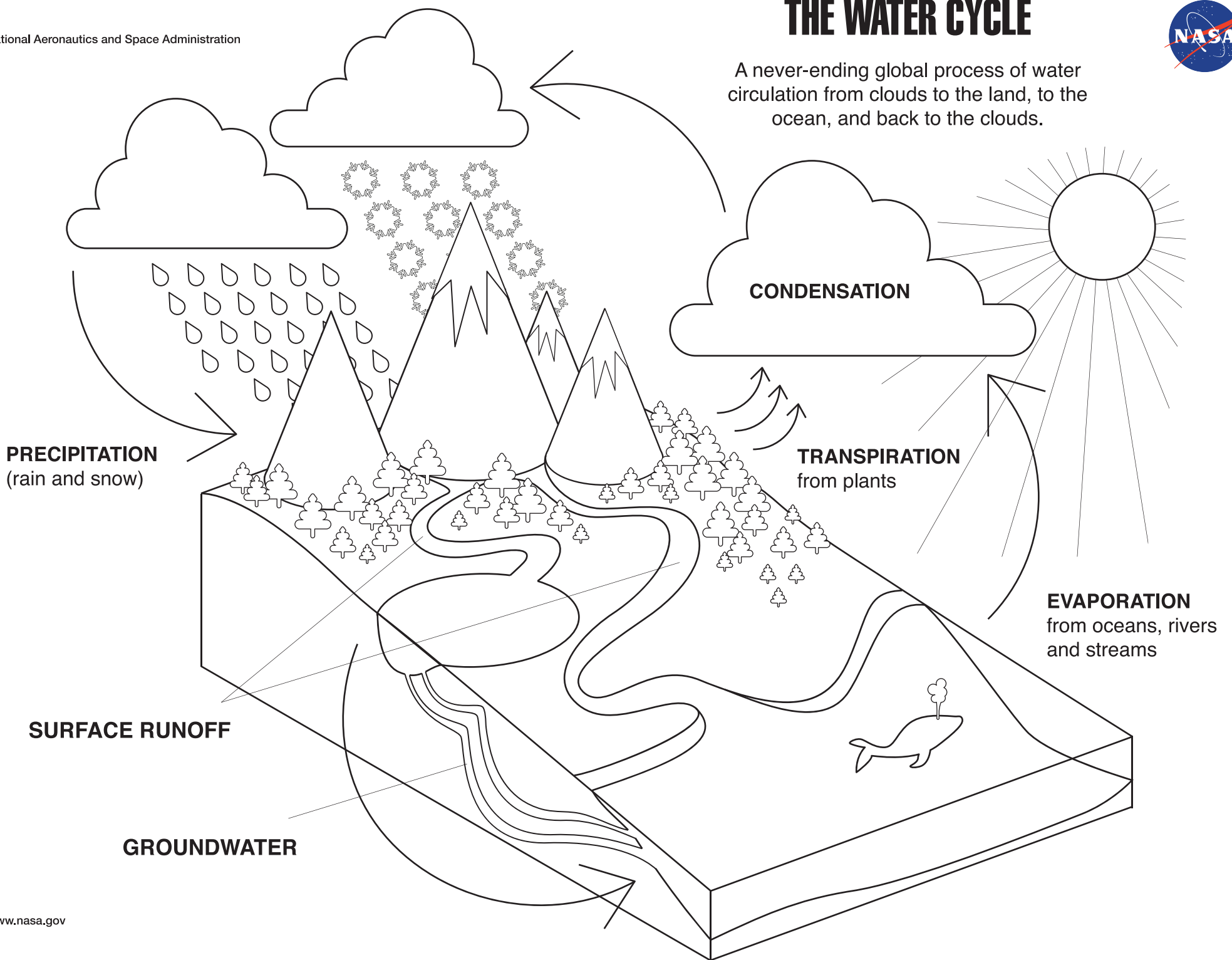


# THE WATER CYCLE

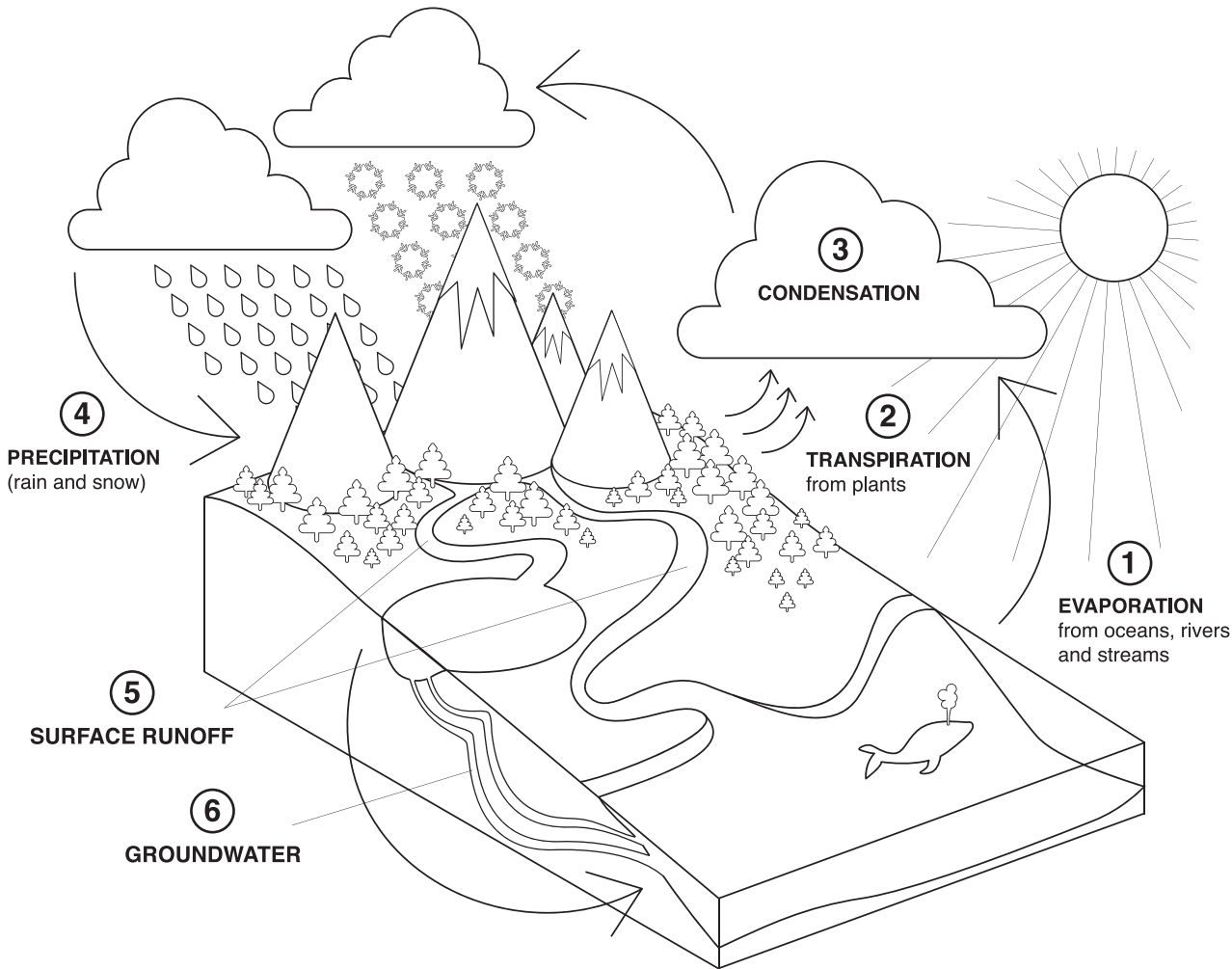


A never-ending global process of water circulation from clouds to the land, to the ocean, and back to the clouds.



# THE WATER CYCLE

A never-ending global process of water circulation from clouds to the land, to the ocean, and back to the clouds.



- 1 EVAPORATION**  
Heat from the Sun causes water to evaporate from the ocean, lakes and streams. Evaporation occurs when liquid water on Earth's surface turns into water vapor in our atmosphere.
- 2 TRANSPIRATION**  
Water from plants and trees also enters the atmosphere. This is called transpiration.
- 3 CONDENSATION**  
Warm water vapor rises up through Earth's atmosphere. As the water vapor rises, the cool air of the atmosphere causes it to turn back into liquid water, creating clouds.
- 4 PRECIPITATION**  
When a cloud becomes full of liquid water, it falls from the sky mainly as rain or snow—also known as precipitation. Rain and snow then fill lakes and streams, and the process starts all over again.
- 5 SURFACE RUNOFF**  
Surface runoff is nothing more than water "running off" the land surface. Rain runs off land surfaces downhill due to gravity.
- 6 GROUND WATER**  
Some water seeps into the ground as soil moisture or groundwater.