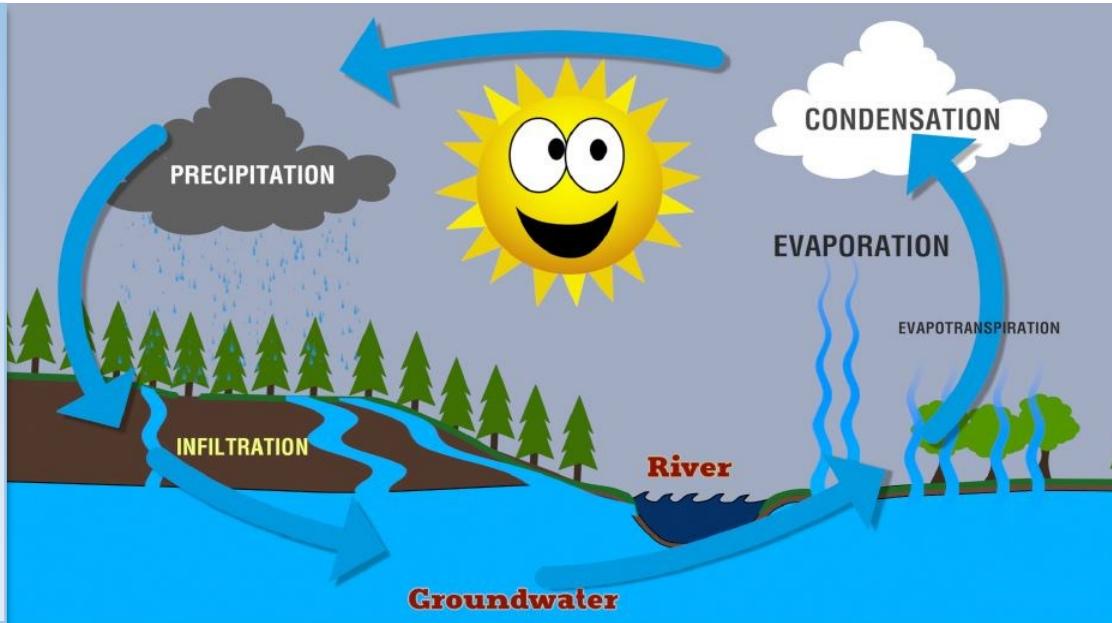


## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO CREATE 1 GALLON OF WATER?

Did you know it takes 500 years for Mother Nature to make 1 inch of soil! So, this means we are growing our food in the same soil that was created before the United States became an independent country! Well can you guess how long it takes to make 1 gallon of water? Gotcha! ..We can't make water!! If you think back to your elementary school years, you may remember hearing about the water cycle.

All the water we depend on everyday resides in a closed-loop system, meaning that it continues to cycle from one physical state to another, over and over without end. Water molecules evaporate out of every living thing we see (us, trees, your dog and even soil) then condense up in the sky to eventually form liquid water (or maybe snow) and then come back down to the earth and get used up again into something that needs water; or, maybe it flows all the way down into the groundwater on it's next trip around.

The interesting thing is that ***we already have ALL the water we will ever have. We are never going to get any more water than we have right now!*** The same water just keeps going around and around in the water cycle, and has been since the beginning of history. AND, this means we are drinking the same water that Cleopatra, Galileo, Beethoven, Isaac Newton, George Washington and Einstein drank and bathed in!



Fortunately for us, this ***natural water cycle actually cleans our water for free! The water is naturally filtered as it flows through clean layers of soil like those found in wetlands, floodplains, and vegetated drainage areas*** before it recharges our groundwater or flows back into our streams. But, we still need to do our part to keep it clean by **using reusable drinking bottles instead of buying bottled water, using material grocery bags instead of plastic bags, never pouring or blowing anything down the storm drain, keeping our ditches vegetated ....and....**



**Remember, keeping our water clean is everyone's business!**

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