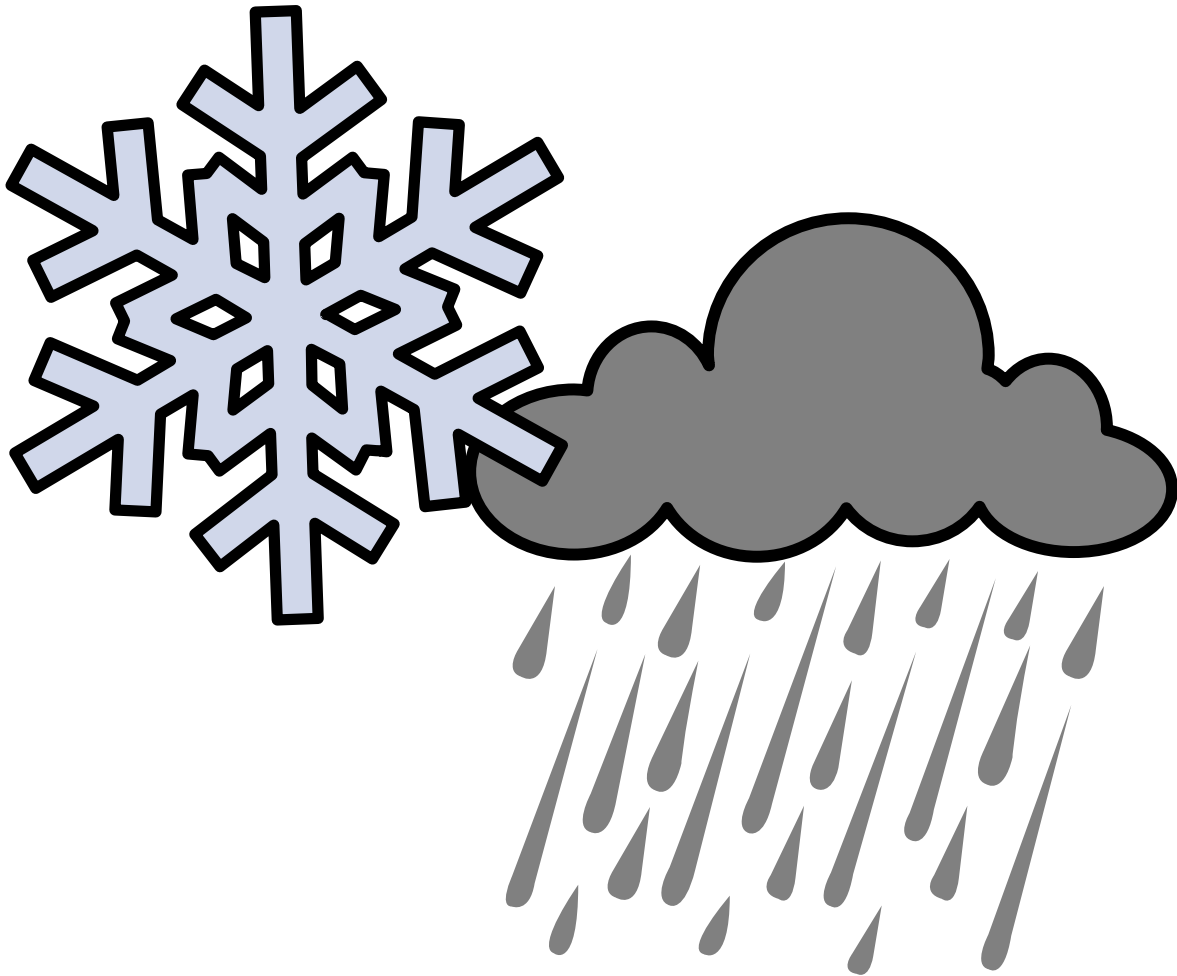


# Precipitation

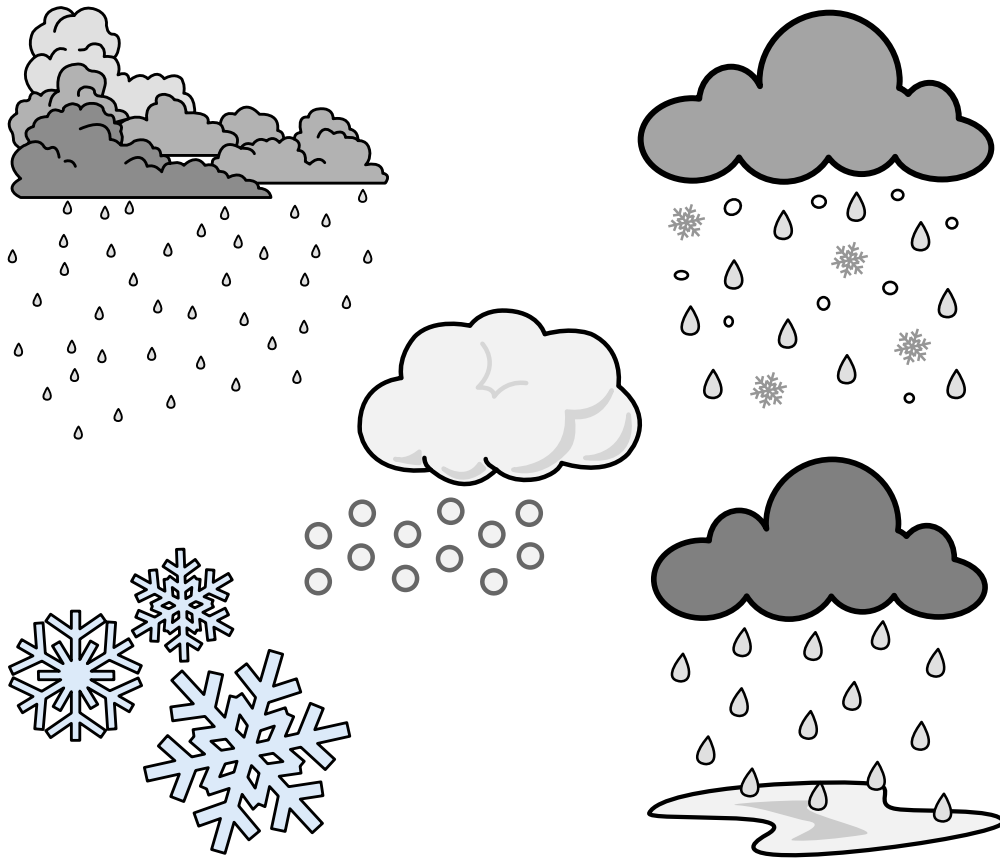
Level F/G



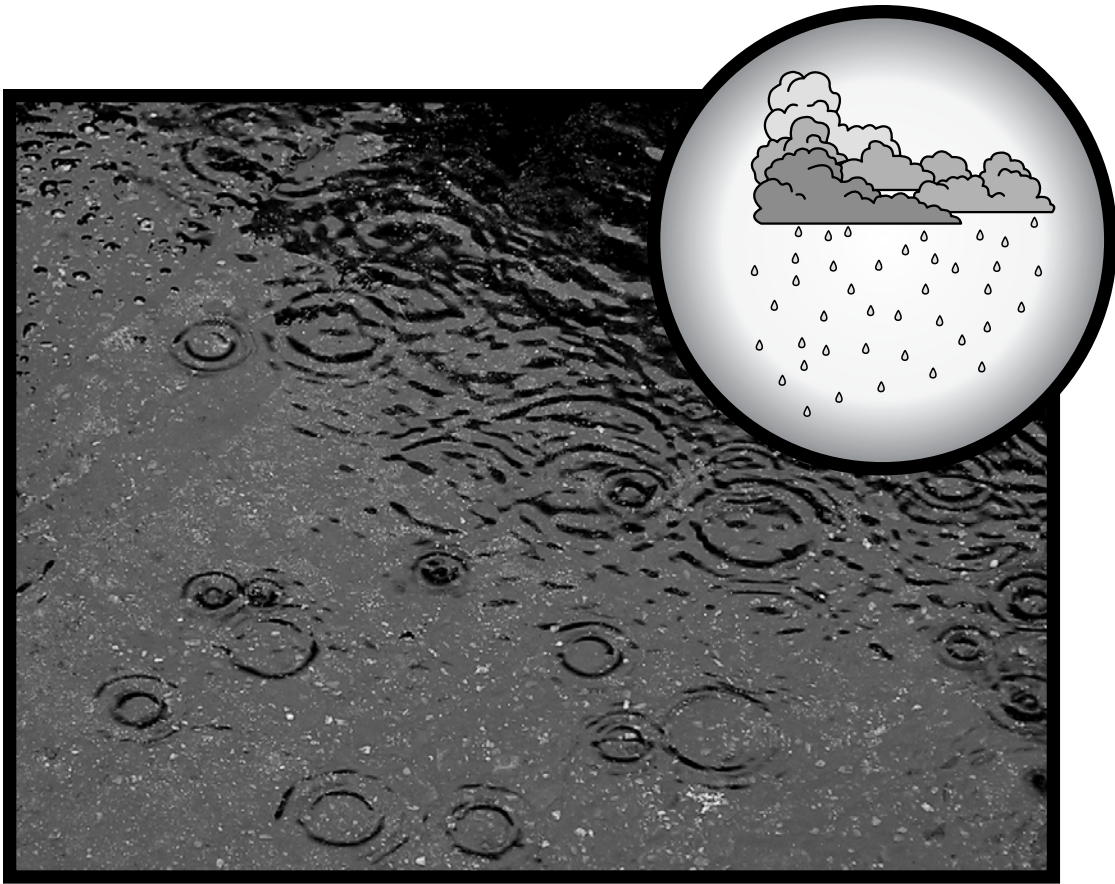
Written and Illustrated by Travis Schaeffer



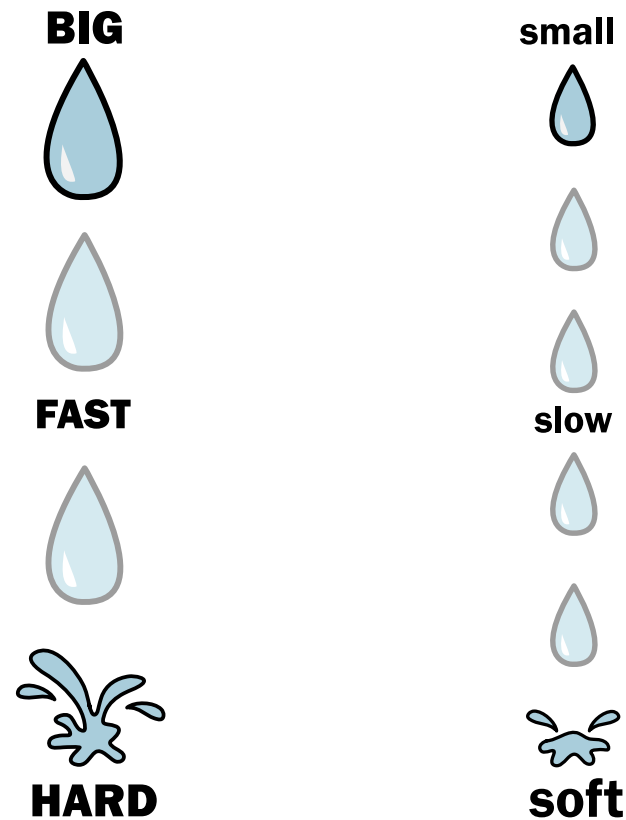
Dark clouds are moving in the sky.  
These clouds are made up of a gas that collects tiny drops of water. This gas is called **water vapor**.



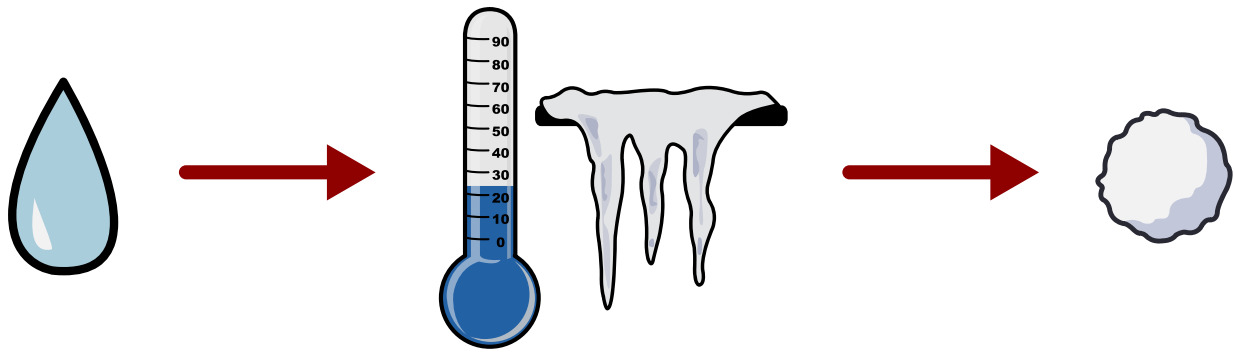
**Precipitation** is different forms of water that fall from clouds. The weather can determine the type of precipitation.



During a warm summer day, rain can fall from clouds. **Rain** is a liquid drop of water that falls from clouds.



The speed of a rain drop depends on the size. The bigger the rain drop, the faster it falls to the ground. A rain storm that is faster and harder has big rain drops. A rain storm that is slower and softer has small rain drops.



During a summer storm, a raindrop can freeze into a ball of ice. The ball of ice falls from the cloud and hits the ground. The ball of ice is called **hail**.





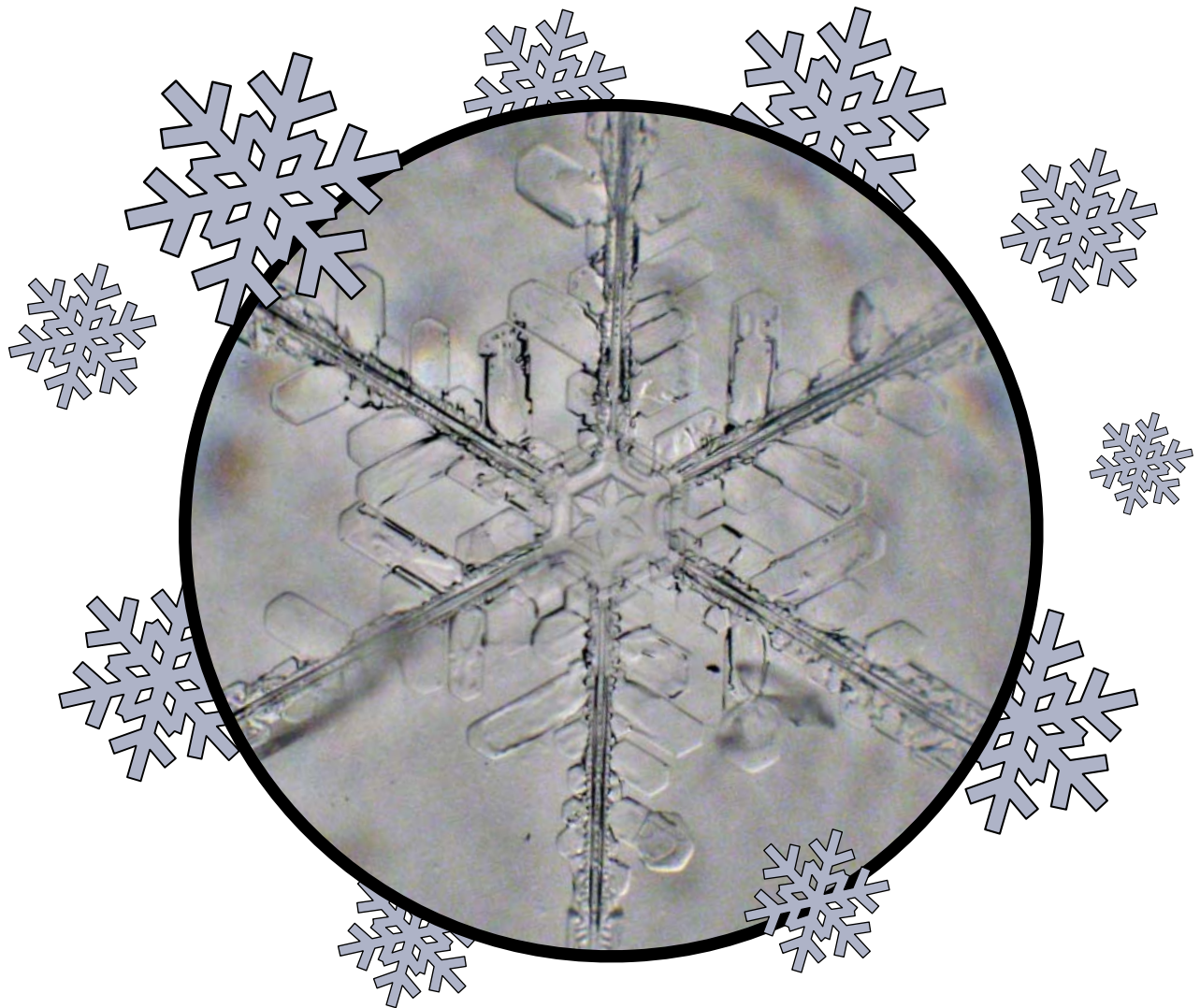
Hail can be different sizes. It can be big like a quarter or small like a pea. A hail storm can be dangerous.

*Be careful: you can get hurt if you are caught outside during a hail storm.*



It is winter and the outside temperature is much colder. The dark clouds create a new type of precipitation. It is called **snow**.





Snow happens when water vapor in clouds change into ice crystals. The ice crystals are called **snowflakes**.



A snowflake is small and light. But, these small snowflakes can collect on the ground and make large piles of snow!



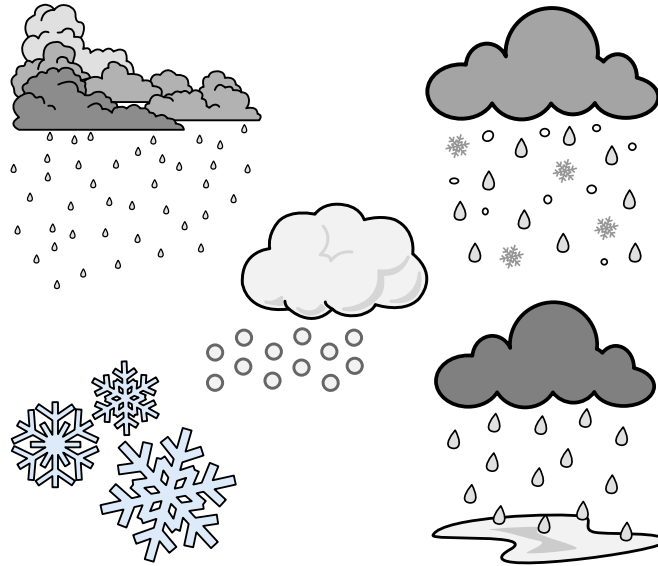
During a winter storm, snow can fall from clouds and change into a mixture of ice and rain. This mixture is called **sleet**. Sleet looks like tiny pellets of ice.



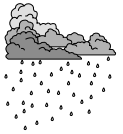


Another type of precipitation is called **freezing rain**. When freezing rain hits the ground, it freezes into ice. *Be careful: sleet and freezing makes the ground icy and slippery in the winter!*





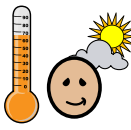
## Be Prepared for Precipitation:



- If it is raining, bring an umbrella.



- If it is snowing, wear boots and



dress warm.



- If it is hailing, stay inside.



- If it is sleet or freezing rain,



watch out for slippery ice.

yes



# Precipitation

no



<p>freeze</p>	<p>warm</p>	<p>big</p>	<p>cloud</p>	<p>gas</p>	<p>form / type</p>	<p>water / raindrop</p>
<p>change</p>	<p>fast</p>	<p>hard</p>	<p>water vapor</p>	<p>precipitation</p>	<p>weather</p>	<p>rain</p>
<p>stay inside</p>	<p>slow</p>	<p>soft</p>	<p>ball</p>	<p>ice</p>	<p>hail</p>	<p>winter</p>
<p>watch out</p>	<p>small</p>	<p>cold</p>	<p>snow</p>	<p>snowflake</p>	<p>mixture</p>	<p>sleet</p>
	<p>light</p>		<p>freezing rain</p>	<p>umbrella</p>	<p>boots</p>	

# Glossary

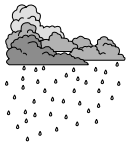
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**water vapor** - the gas form of water



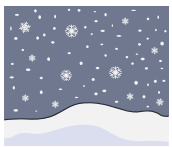
**precipitation** - different forms of water that fall from clouds



**rain** - liquid drops of water that fall from clouds



**hail** - balls of ice that fall from clouds



**snow** - light, white snowflakes that fall from clouds



**snowflake** - an ice crystal



**sleet** - a mixture of ice and rain that fall from clouds



**freezing rain** - rain that falls from clouds and freezes when it hits the ground

# Index for Photographs

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