

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

What Is Happening to Our Water?

Directions: Read the excerpt below.

The water cycle is a delicate balance of precipitation, evaporation, and all of the steps in between. Warmer temperatures increase the rate of evaporation of water into the atmosphere, in effect increasing the atmosphere's capacity to "hold" water.

Increased evaporation may dry out some areas and fall as excess precipitation on other areas. Over the past 50 years, the amount of rain falling during the most intense 1% of storms increased by almost 20%.

Warming winter temperatures cause more precipitation to fall as rain rather than snow. Furthermore, rising temperatures cause snow to begin melting earlier in the year. This alters the timing of streamflow in rivers that have their sources in mountainous areas.

Excerpted from: EPA - Climate Impacts on Water Resources
www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/water.html#watercycles

Predictions

Using the excerpt above, what you have learned in recent activities, and your knowledge of the water cycle and processes like evaporation, what do you think some of the effects of climate change are on the water cycle?