

## Lesson 2 – Resource Sheet 2

### Types of precipitation



#### Rain

Rain falls when drops of moisture in the atmosphere become too heavy to be held in the cloud and fall towards the earth's surface. If it's cold enough, the drops of moisture form ice crystals that join together to form large snowflakes. As the falling snow passes through warmer air, the flakes melt to become raindrops.



#### Snow

Snowflakes begin as tiny ice crystals in clouds where the temperature is at or below zero (0°C). As an ice crystal rises and falls within a cloud, it grows by joining with other ice crystals. When the snowflake becomes heavy enough, it falls towards the ground. If the temperature at ground level is at or below 0°C, snow will gather.



#### Hail

Hail is frozen raindrops that are produced in a thunderstorm. As water droplets rise rapidly in a storm, they form ice pellets that continue to grow until they begin to fall to the ground under the force of gravity.



#### Dew

Moisture in the air will form droplets known as dew when the air comes into contact with a cold surface. For example, grass at night.

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