The Three Forms of Water 4/6/17, 10:18 AM

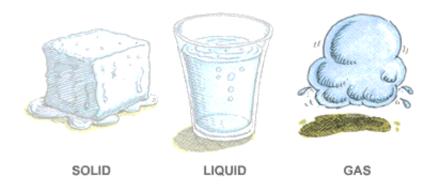


## What three forms can water take?

Do you know the story of drinking water?

How much of the earth is covered with water?

What is water made of?



Pure water is tasteless, odorless, and colorless. Water can occur in three states: **solid** (ice), **liquid**, or **gas** (vapor).

How is water cleaned?

Is water free?

**Solid water**—ice is frozen water. When water freezes, its molecules move farther apart, making ice less dense than water. This means that ice will be lighter than the same volume of water, and so ice will float in water. Water freezes at 0° Celsius, 32° Fahrenheit.

**Liquid water** is wet and fluid. This is the form of water with which we are most familiar. We use liquid water in many ways, including washing and drinking.

Water as a gas—vapor is always present in the air around us. You cannot see it. When you boil water, the water changes from a liquid to a gas or water vapor. As some of the water vapor cools, we see it as a small cloud called steam. This cloud of steam is a miniversion of the clouds we see in the sky. At sea level, steam is formed at 100° Celsius, 212° Fahrenheit.

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The water vapor attaches to small bits of dust in the air. It forms raindrops in warm temperatures. In cold temperatures, it freezes and forms snow or hail.

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