

Stages of Water

There are three stages of water. Water can be liquid, solid, or gas. There are two kinds of water; salt water and fresh water. Water in all its forms exists on the earth. In fact, the earth is called 'the blue planet' because it is comprised of 70% water and only 30% land. Near the North and South poles, water appears mostly in its solid form known as ice. There are five major saltwater oceans that cover the majority of the rest of the earth. Much of the earth's atmosphere contains water in its gaseous state. Organisms that live on land need fresh water to live, while organisms in the oceans need salt water to live.

Water seeks to be in its liquid state. In nature, water can be a waterfall in a tropical rainforest, an ocean, a sea, a lake, a pond, and also a swamp or river. Humans use liquid water, too. We wash up in water and use it to wash items, such as our clothes, and also clean our house with it. We enjoy swimming in water in pools as well as natural bodies of water. The human body is mostly made of water, too. We need to constantly replenish our water supply in order to live because it is expelled from our bodies through waste or sweat.

Another stage of water is a solid. In this stage, water is called ice. Here in the United States, it is popular to use ice to cool our drinks. Until the refrigerator was invented, people used ice as a coolant in order to preserve food. Water turns to ice when it is frozen at 0 degrees Celsius (32°F). Water expands or swells when freezing by about 10 percent. At 4°C (39.2°F) it is at its densest, or occupies the least volume or space. For instance, when I put a soda in the freezer, the can pops open. Water is unlike most liquids, which have their maximum density at their melting point. Pure water at 4°C (39.2°F) is often used as a reference substance for scientific measurements.

Another stage of water is steam. By boiling water at sea level to 100 degrees Celsius, or 212 degrees Fahrenheit, steam is formed. It takes more time to boil water at a high elevation than at sea level. Humans use steam and boiling water to cook food. When a hot pan encounters cold water, it makes steam. As water heats, it evaporates into steam. If a steaming pot of water is covered and left to sit, the water begins to cool. The steam slowly turns back into its liquid state. This is an example of water always seeking to be in its liquid form. In nature, water can appear as rain or snow. When droplets of water are very tiny and distributed in the air, they turn into fog or clouds.

Water is essential to all living organisms. It sustains all life and allows our planet to be habitable. In fact, the earth is the only planet that has water and land. Water has contributed to the formation of mountains, islands, continents. From my research and experience, I have learned that water has many forms and many uses.