

Rain

- Water droplets form from warm air.
- As warm air rises in the sky it cools.
- Water vapor always exists in our air.
- When enough droplets collect together, we see them as clouds.
- When the drops get heavy, they fall because of gravity, and you see and feel rain.

Snow

- Formed when water vapor undergoes deposition.
- Deposition is when water vapor changes directly to ice without first becoming a liquid.
- Deposition occurs high in the atmosphere at a temperature of less than 32°F.
- Ice crystals are heavy, they fall because of gravity, and you see and feel snow.

Sleet

- Rain drops that freeze into ice pellets before reaching the ground.
- Usually bounces when hitting a surface and does not stick to objects.
- Can accumulate like snow.

Freezing Rain

- Rain that falls onto a surface with a temperature below freezing.
- Rain freezes to surfaces, such as trees, cars, and roads, forming a coating or glaze of ice.

Hail

- Within cumulonimbus clouds ice crystals form and begin to fall towards the Earth's surface.
- Wind gusts pick up the ice crystals, pushing them back up high into the clouds.
- As they begin to fall again, they continue growing in size, and again a wind gust catches the growing hail stones, pushing them back up into the clouds.
- This is repeated several times until the hail stones become too heavy for the wind to carry, causing them to fall towards the Earth.

