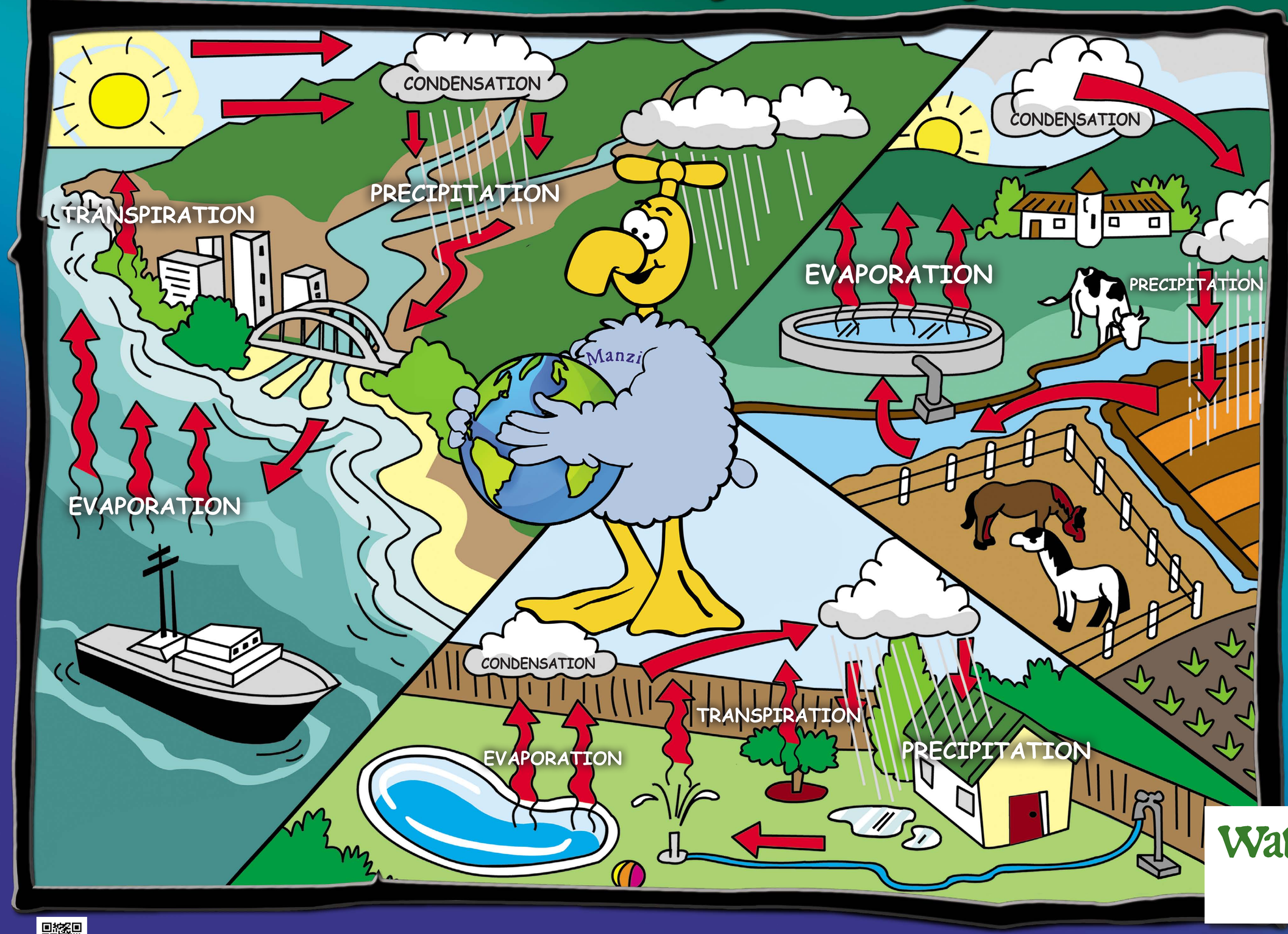
The Earth Recycles your Water



All life on Earth needs water to survive. Water is life and life needs water. When Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in 1969 he described Planet Earth as "a shining blue pearl spinning in space". The blue colour is the water that is present on Earth. 70% of the Earth's surface is covered with water but of this amount 97% is salt water, with the remaining 3% being fresh water. This fresh water is in the form of rivers, lakes, dams, etc. (0.8%) and in the form of ice found at the North and South Poles (2.2%).

BUT WHERE DOES WATER COME FROM?
The water on Earth is very old. The water that is being used now was used by the dinosaurs millions of years ago. This is because the Earth recycles (reuses) its water. This recycling of water is called the **water cycle**. Water exists on Earth as water droplets which are found in oceans, rivers, lakes, dams, swimming pools, leaves, soil, etc. Heat from the sun causes some of these water droplets to change from a liquid into a gas, called water vapour. This is called **evaporation**. When water droplets evaporate from leaves it is called **transpiration**. The water vapour then rises into the atmosphere. As the water vapour rises it cools down and changes from a gas into a liquid, and thus back into water droplets. This is called **condensation**. When these water droplets are in the atmosphere they join together and form clouds. When these droplets get too heavy to stay in the atmosphere they fall to the Earth as either rain, hail, snow, etc. This is called **precipitation**. Some of these water droplets fall into oceans, some into rivers and streams, some into lakes and dams, and some onto the land where they either seep into the ground or run off the surface into rivers, lakes, dams or the ocean. Water knows no boundaries and as it flows over the Earth's surface it is used by plants, animals and humans in order to survive. These water droplets can then be reheated by the sun and the recycling starts again. **Our Earth is REALLY Water Wise! ARE YOU?**

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For further information on Water Wise please contact 0860 10 10 60 or visit www.randwater.co.za and click on the Water Wise logo.