# The Water Cycle- Rainfall Through The Seasons

Worksheet Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Follow this link <https://www.currentresults.com/Weather/Iowa/precipitation-april.php>

Gather the average rainfall in inches from each location for each month of the year. Then calculate the average of the given locations for each month.

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| **Month** | **Jan.** | **Feb.** | **March** | **April** | **May** | **June** | **July** | **Aug.** | **Sept.** | **Oct.** | **Nov.** | **Dec.** |
| **Eastern Iowa** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Burlington | 1.2 | 1.6 | 2.8 | 3.8 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 2.1 |
| Decorah | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.9 | 3.6 | 4.2 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 3.3 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 1.2 |
| **Central Iowa** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fort Dodge | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.9 | 3.7 | 4.8 | 5.6 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 1.2 |
| Des Moines | 1.0 | 1.3 | 2.3 | 3.9 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 1.4 |
| **Western Iowa** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sioux City | 0.6 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 0.8 |
| Carroll | 0.9 | 0.9 | 2.2 | 3.5 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.1 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 1.2 |
| Average/Month/State of Iowa | .92 | 1.05 | 2.18 | 3.58 | 4.45 | 4.85 | 4.37 | 4.15 | 3.15 | 2.53 | 1.97 | 1.32 |

\*\*The rainfall totals are averages based on weather data collected from 1981 to 2010 for the NOAA National Climatic Data Center.

**Questions:**

1. What months in Iowa have the most average rainfall? Which have the least? Why do you think this? Most: May, June, July, August. Least: January, February, November, December
2. What influences rainfall in a certain season? A certain region?

-Each season has a different climate. A warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture; therefore, warmer months can hold more moisture and have more precipitation than colder and drier months. The region is influenced by the time of the year and the season.

1. What determines the amount of rainfall?

- Factors That Influence Precipitation: Altitude, Latitude, Level of Humidity

1. Do changing amounts of rainfall affect the mammal, plant, insect, or bird populations that seasonally live in Iowa? If so, how?

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1. How can water (excess or lack) affect Earth’s surface?

-Can cause drought if there is a lack or could cause flooding or runoff effects if there is an excess.