

# Introduction

Without water, there would be no life on Earth at all—no people, birds or animals—not so much as a single insect or blade of grass. Our blue planet would be as grey and lifeless as the surface of the moon.



The lifeless surface of the moon

What is it about this wonder liquid that makes it such a vital part of every living thing? What special qualities does it possess? Where did it come from and where does it go?

For the answers to these and many other questions, read on as we explore the wonderful world of water.



Water sustains all life on Earth.

# Magic Formula

At first glance, water doesn't seem very special. It is virtually colourless, and has no distinctive taste or smell. In fact, it's hard to imagine anything more ordinary.

Water, however, has many amazing properties. For example, it can absorb a great deal of heat before it gets hot. This allows the world's oceans to soak up much of the sun's energy and keep the planet from overheating.

So what makes water so unique? To find out, we have to look below the surface. Far, far below—at the very atoms which come together to form this most remarkable liquid.



Water is a clear, colourless liquid.