



Where can you find water? You might say an ocean, a lake, a river, or even in the air. Water is a common liquid. However, you can also find water as a solid. Ice is water that is frozen into a solid. Snow and hail are made of ice. You can even find water as an invisible gas called *vapor*. Water vapor is in the air all around us.

Whether water is a solid, liquid, or gas depends partly on temperature. For example, if the temperature is low enough, then water is a solid. Think about the North Pole. Temperatures there rarely get above 0°C (32°F). It is so cold that the seawater is frozen, even during the summer.

Next, think about the water near the equator. Here, the temperatures are mild throughout the year. The average daily temperature is around 24°C (75°F). The water is always warm in this part of the world. Ice never forms in these waters.

Now think of a volcano on an island. The volcano has just erupted. As hot lava pours into the ocean, the water heats up so much that it boils. It turns into an invisible gas that rises into the air.

Even in an ocean, you can find water as a solid, a liquid, or a gas. You just have to look in the right place.



In this picture, some of the water is solid, and some is liquid.



You can't see water vapor because it is invisible. You can see steam, though. Steam is a mixture of liquid water and vapor.