

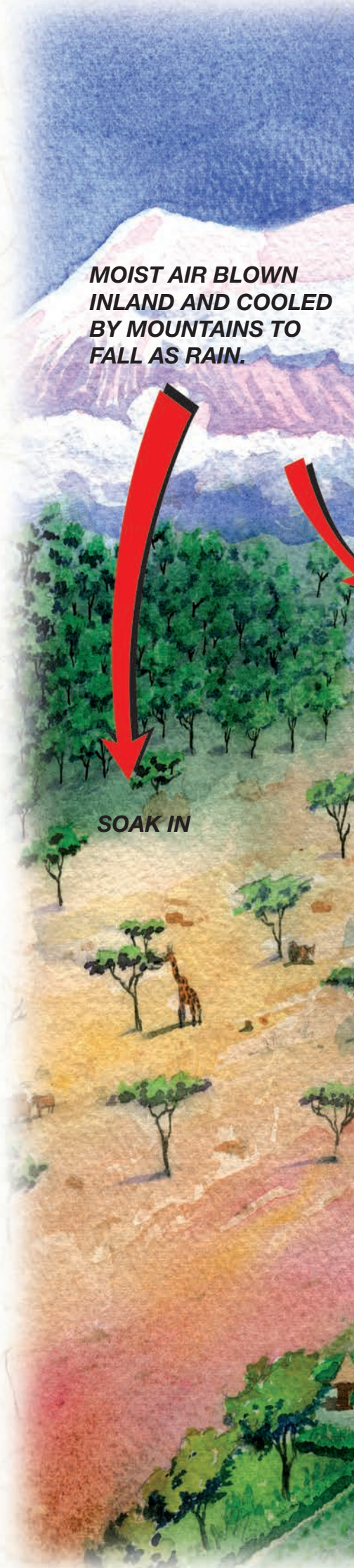
WHERE DOES WATER COME FROM?

All water circulates continuously in the water cycle.

Rain falls and runs down plant-stems into the spaces between the soil, ending up as groundwater which collects on top of, or inside rocks. Water that lands on hard soil or concrete runs over the surface into watercourses like rivers, and into ponds and lakes. Eventually, the river water runs to the sea. Water evaporates (turns into gaseous form) when it heats up, rising into the air and then the upper atmosphere. There, in the cool air, it condenses into clouds, creating water droplets again which fall down as rain.

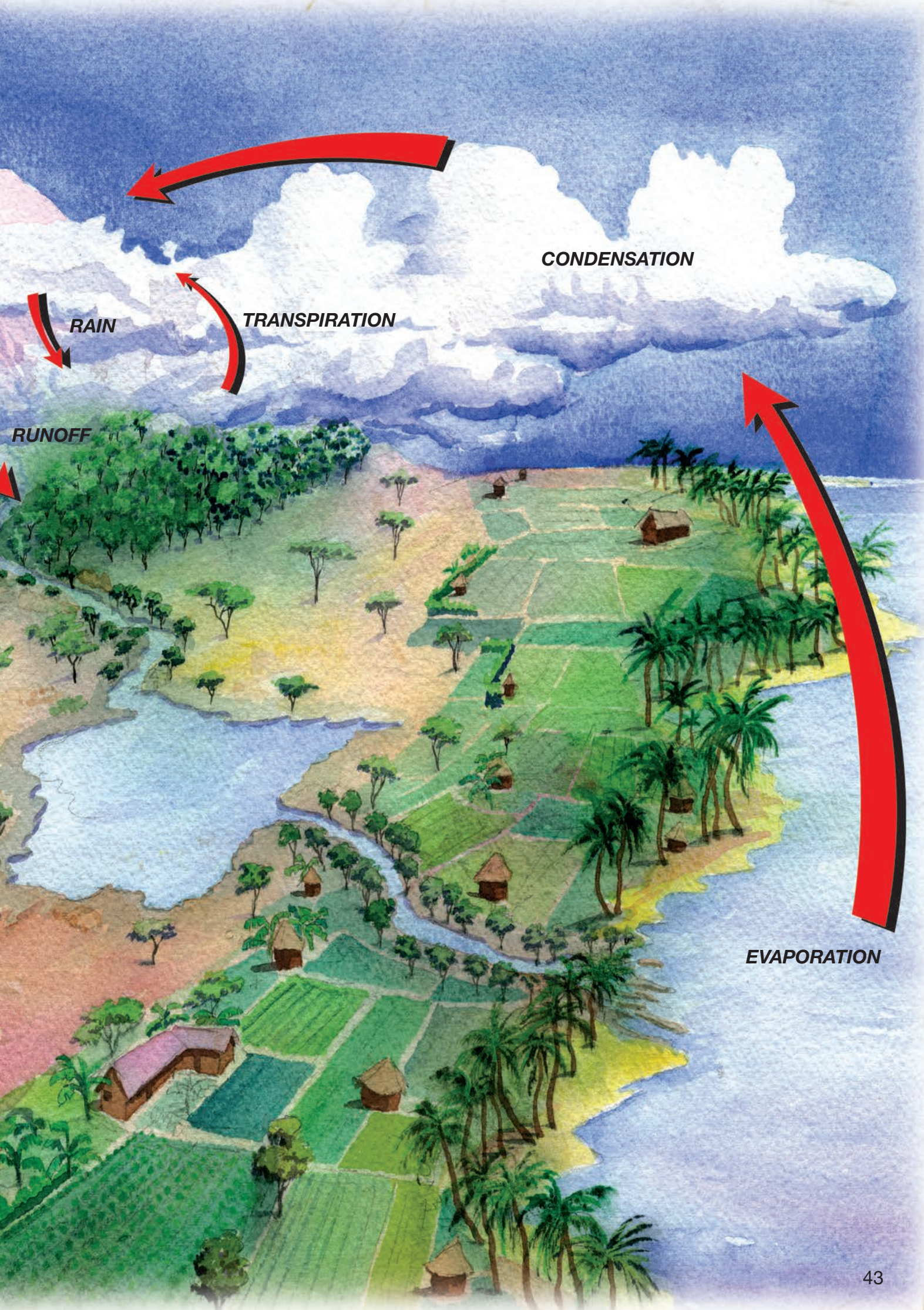
The water cycle is 'watertight'

No water ever leaves and no new water enters. In Southern Africa, 65% of rainfall evaporates quickly from the surface, 14% runs off into rivers, 20% goes into the air from plant leaves - a process known as evapotranspiration. Only 1% of rainwater ends up replenishing groundwater supplies.



MOIST AIR BLOWN INLAND AND COOLED BY MOUNTAINS TO FALL AS RAIN.

SOAK IN



CONDENSATION

RAIN

TRANSPIRATION

RUNOFF

EVAPORATION