

Water Cycle

Water is all around us! In lakes, rivers, oceans, in the air, and even inside plants and animals! Explore the way water moves around the planet and create a miniature version of the water cycle.



Key Terms

Evaporation- the process by which liquid water molecules are driven by the sun to get hot, gain energy, and convert into water vapor molecules

Water Vapor- gaseous form of water, present in the air

Condensation- the process by which water vapor molecules collect and cool down, turning back into liquid water

Precipitation- the process by which liquid water returns to earth in the form of rain, sleet, snow, and hail

Materials

A large bowl

Coffee mug

Plastic wrap

Rubber band, string, or tape

Water

Outdoor space

Procedure

1. Fill your bowl about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way with water and place it in a sunny spot outside.
2. Place the coffee mug inside the bowl. Be careful to not get any water inside the mug.
3. Cover the top of the bowl with plastic wrap and secure with the rubber band, string, or tape.
4. Patiently watch your bowl and observe any changes. After 30 minutes outside, check your bowl again. What do you find?

Guiding Questions

1. What was the first change you noticed in your bowl? How long did this take to occur?
2. Each step in our water cycle is represented in our experiment, can you explain each one?
 - a. Evaporation
 - b. Condensation
 - c. Precipitation
3. While these are the major steps in the water cycle, water doesn't only end up in bodies of water, clouds, and precipitation. What other places on Earth

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does water travel on it's journey?



Extension

- Using your list of places water may end up on Earth, write a story. Imagine you are a water drop starting your journey where most of the world's water is: the ocean! Your story will tell all the places you have traveled on your journey.
- Take things a step further and illustrate your story. Draw pictures of the places you traveled, the obstacles you have encountered, and the processes you underwent.