
Water Cycle

Background Information: Water goes around in a cycle or circle. Water is recycled. The three major steps of the water cycle are precipitation, evaporation and condensation. Rain, sleet, and snow fall from the clouds depending on the temperature. These are different forms of precipitation. The melting snow, sleet and rain flow into the ground and eventually into bigger bodies of water. The sun's heat melts snow. It also changes water into water vapor or gas. This is evaporation. The water vapor rises into the air and cools and as it cools it forms a cloud. This is condensation. This is the ongoing water cycle. Twin satellites, named GRACE, will help us track water movement on and beneath Earth's surface.

Objectives:

At the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Define and describe the water cycle and the three steps of the cycle.
- Create a flow chart (graphic organizer) depicting the water cycle.
- Recognize that GRACE will study gravity and track water movement on and beneath Earth's surface.

Standards:

Science: unifying concepts and processes; science in personal and social perspectives; and life science.

Language Arts: communication; writing skills

Vocabulary

Water cycle

Precipitation

Evaporation

Condensation

Materials:

Flow chart with pictures and words (see attached)

Scissors

Glue

Directions to the Teacher:

1. Review relevant background information. Show students a visual of the water cycle as you explain it. Review vocabulary words. Show pictures of the GRACE satellite and how it will track water movement on and beneath Earth's surface.
2. Students will complete the flow chart by coloring the pictures, cutting out pictures and words, and pasting them in sequential order.
3. Using their flow chart, Students will explain the water cycle to a parent or guardian for homework.

Extensions:

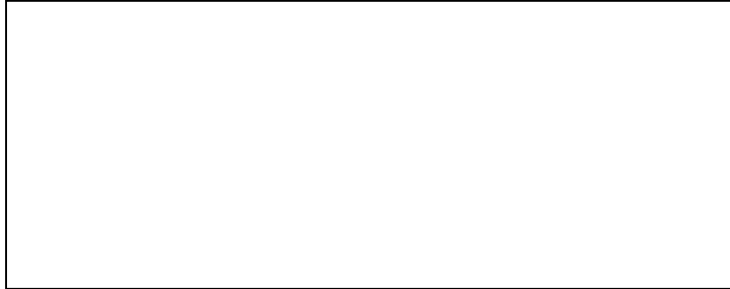
- Students will make a rain/snow gauge using a tin can with a unit of measurement (inches) labeled on the can. See how much precipitation falls in your area. Record the measurements.
- Students will watch the weather on television, listen to the weather forecast on the radio, or look at the weather on the map in the newspaper and report to the class the forecast for the upcoming week.

References / Resources:

White, Larry, Water. Millbrook Press: Connecticut, 1995.

How Does Water Flow?

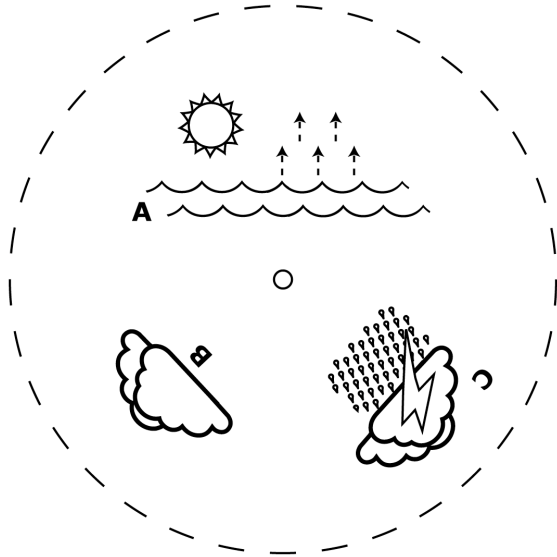
Water Cycle Flow Chart



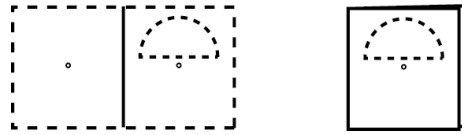
Teacher: Copy this activity on construction or cover stock paper. Each child will need a paper fastener.

Make A Water Cycle Wheel

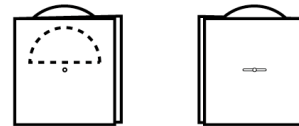
A.



1. Cut out Part A and Part B
2. Cut out on the --- on Part B to make a window.
3. Fold Part B.



4. Put Part A into Part B and fasten with a

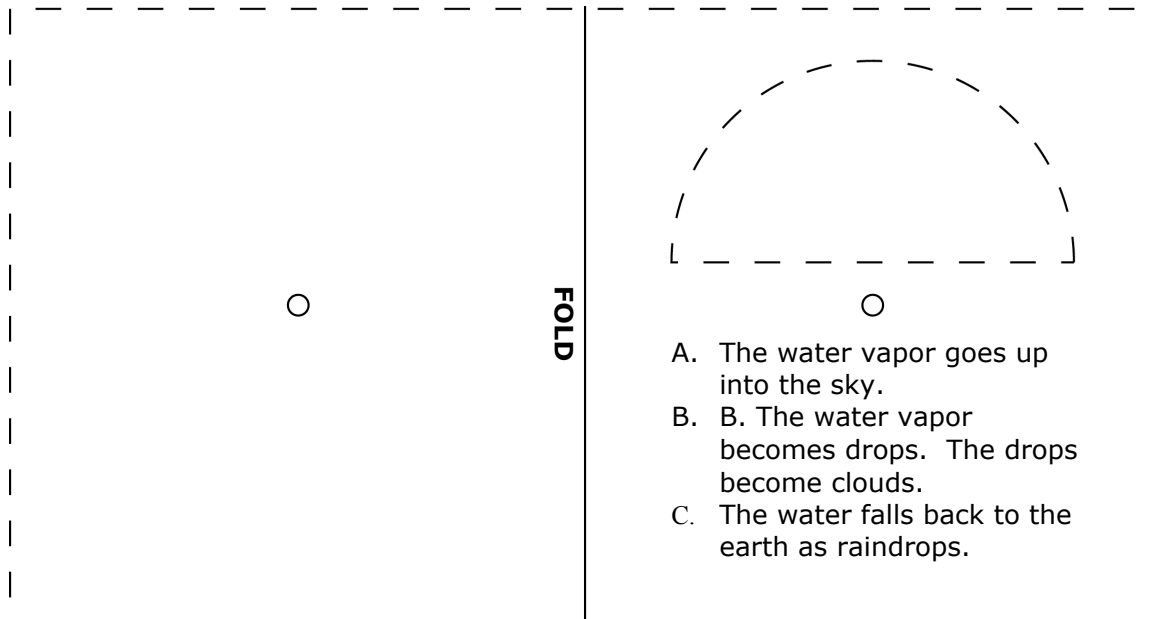


FRONT

BACK

5. Turn the wheel.

B.



The Water Cycle

Look at this circle. Can you see the water falling from the sky? Can you see it rising back up? Follow the path of the raindrops. Color each raindrop blue.

Scientists have a special name for this path of water. This path has no end. The name is the **water cycle**.



Now complete these sentences about the water cycle. Use the picture to help you.

1. The water falls from the _____.
 2. The water goes into the _____.
 3. The water rises up into the _____.
 4. _____, twin satellites, will help us track water movement on and beneath Earth's surface.
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