

LESSON 7: WATER CYCLE

SUPPLIES

PENCIL BOX

- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers

MAIN BIN

- Cotton balls (100)

FOLDER

- Construction paper (20)

OBJECTIVE



Students will identify and explain the four main stages of the water cycle: condensation, precipitation, evaporation, and transpiration.

INTRODUCTION

🕒 5-10 mins

Imagine you're outside on a sunny day, and the sky is clear and blue. Suddenly, clouds start to form, and soon it begins to rain. Have you ever wondered where that rain comes from? The rain falls from clouds, but those clouds are made of tiny drops of water that come from different places.

HOOK

🕒 3-5 min

Ask:

- Where does rain come from?
- Where does water go after it rains?
- How do plants get water back into the air?

Explain that today, students will learn how water keeps moving around our planet in a big cycle that never stops!


This is all part of something called the water cycle, which is the way water moves around our planet. Water from lakes, rivers, and oceans heats up in the sun and turns into invisible vapor that rises into the sky—this is called evaporation. Plants also help by releasing water vapor from their leaves, which is called transpiration.

When the water vapor cools down, it changes back into tiny water droplets and forms clouds—this is called condensation. Finally, when those droplets get heavy enough, they fall back to Earth as rain, snow, or hail—this is precipitation.

The water then collects in bodies of water or gets absorbed by plants, and the whole cycle starts all over again. This continuous movement of water is super important because it helps give plants, animals, and people the fresh water they need to live.



DISCUSSION

 10–20 min

Explain the water cycle to students, then pass out materials for them to make their own model water cycles!

The water cycle is the continuous movement of water on, above, and below the surface of the Earth. At its most basic form, the water cycle involves:

Condensation: Water vapor condensing in a cloud to form droplets

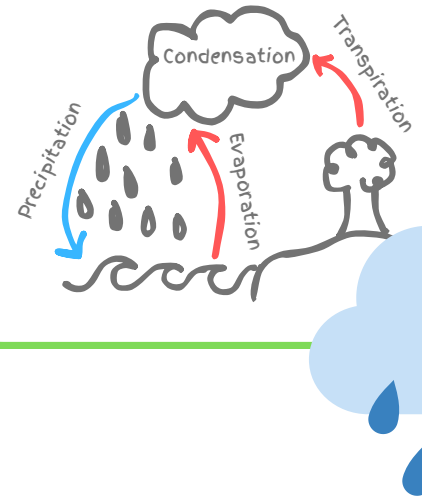
Precipitation: Water droplets falling to earth in the form of rain, snow, hail, etc.

Transpiration: Some water that falls onto the ground is used by plants, which then release water vapor into the air

Evaporation: Some water that falls onto the ground collects in bodies of water like lakes, oceans, and even puddles. When it gets hot enough, this water evaporates into water vapor.

These processes work together to transport water from one place to another while also purifying it. The water cycle is essential to maintaining the Earth's ecosystems and providing fresh water for human consumption.

Sample Whiteboard Drawing:



Vocabulary

- A **solid** is something that holds its shape, like a block or a crayon.
- A **liquid** is something that flows and can be poured, like water or juice.
- A **gas** is something you can't see, but it's all around us—like air or steam.

Movement Break

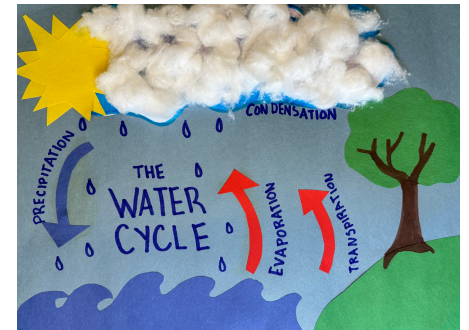
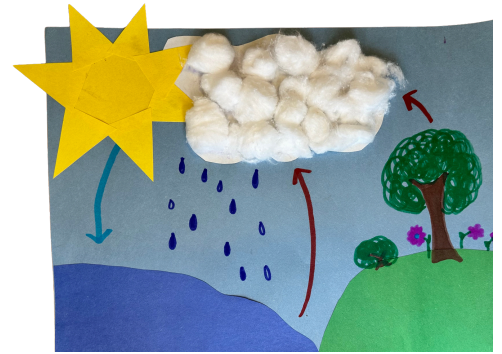
Tell students they're going to act out the three states of matter using their bodies!

- First, be a solid: stand still and tall with arms close to your body—no moving, you're packed tight!
- Now, be a liquid: move slowly around the room, sliding like syrup or water.
- Finally, be a gas: spread out and move fast in all directions like invisible air!

ACTIVITY

🕒 10-20 min

1. Draw a sample water cycle on the board, or show the students a sample that you made.
2. Students should try to recreate this cycle using markers and their white paper.
3. Hand out cotton balls and have the students to use them to make clouds
4. Have students draw the rest of the environment



OBSERVE & EXPLAIN

🕒 10-20 min

Now that you've made your paper water cycle model, let's take a look at what each part shows us! Ask students to point to and talk about each part of the cycle on their model:

Sun

- What does the sun do in our water cycle? (Answer: It heats up water and helps it turn into gas!)

Clouds

- What happens when the water goes up into the sky? (Answer: It forms clouds!)

Rain

- What do clouds do when they get full? (Answer: They drop rain!)

Water on the Ground 🌊

- Where does the rain go? (Answer: Back into rivers, lakes, and oceans!)

CLEAN UP

Have students tidy their work areas by collecting and capping markers, closing glue sticks, and throwing away any scraps. Make sure each child places their completed water cycle model in their folder or backpack.

Double-check that all shared supplies are returned to the main bin.



Exit Ticket



- What are some parts of the water cycle we learned about today?
(Possible answers: rain, clouds, sun, puddles, water)
- What happens to rain after it falls to the ground?
(Possible answers: It goes into rivers, lakes, puddles, or goes back up as steam.)
- What does the sun do in the water cycle?
(Answer: It helps water evaporate or go back up into the sky.)