

A DROP TRAVELS! THE WATER EXPERIMENT!



Activity: The Water Cycle in a Plastic Bag

Objective:

Students will observe how the water cycle works through a simple experiment that demonstrates evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

Materials Needed:

- 1 clear resealable plastic bag (zip-lock type)
- Permanent marker
- A small amount of water (about 1/4 cup)
- Blue food coloring (optional)
- Tape
- A sunny window

Procedure:

1. Draw the cycle:

Using the marker, draw a sun, clouds, and raindrops on the outside of the bag. (The sun can be on one side, the clouds at the top, and the raindrops below.)

2. Add water:

Pour the water into the bag. If you like, add a drop of blue food coloring to make it more visible.

Seal the bag tightly.

3. Place it on a window:

Tape the bag to a sunny window where it will get some warmth from the sun.

4. Observe!

After a few hours (or a day), you'll start to notice:

- Evaporation: The water "disappears" as it warms up from the sun.
- Condensation: Tiny droplets form on the sides of the bag — like clouds!
- Precipitation: The droplets "fall" back down — like rain!

Discussion Questions:

- What changes did you notice in the bag?
- Which stages of the water cycle can you see here?
- What role does the sun play?
- Where else do we see these processes happening in nature?

We learn that:

Water is constantly moving through nature in a cycle:

Evaporation → Condensation → Precipitation → Collection.

This is the Water Cycle! 

