



Science



Math

WATER CYCLE IN A BAG

Grade Level

1-5

Length of Lesson

45 minutes

Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will have a basic understanding of the water cycle.

Materials

- Sandwich-sized zipper seal bags
- Permanent markers
- Aquarium rocks
- Tablespoon
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup measuring cup
- Water
- Packing tape
- Copies of the water cycle template

Standards

Common Core

Mathematics:

CCSS.Math.Content.3.M
D.A.2

NGSS

Earth's Systems: 2-
ESS2-3

Lesson Summary

This lesson is a fun, hands-on activity that allows students to develop their observation skills while learning the stages of the water cycle. This is also a perfect activity to introduce the three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas.

Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Set Up: Print and cut out water cycle illustrations. Then place illustrations in a plastic bag for each student.
2. Read: "[Water is Water](#)" by Miranda Paul to capture student interest.
3. Read through the IL AITC Water Ag Mag to learn more about the importance of water. Interactive versions can be found on our website.
4. Complete the activity following the procedures:
 - Give each student a baggie with the water cycle template inside.
 - Using permanent markers, have students trace over all the black lines, including the numbers.
 - After completely tracing everything, remove the paper from the bag.
 - Add two tablespoons of aquarium rock to the bottom of the bag.
 - Next, Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water to the bag.
 - Using wide, clear packing tap, affix the bag to a window in direct sunlight and watch the water cycle work over the next few days!
5. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity. Pair students together and have them share what they learned about the water cycle.

TEACHER RESOURCES

Extension Ideas:

- Sing the Water Cycle Song (to the tune of “Oh, My Darlin”):

Evaporation, (Push both palms up, palms parallel to the floor.)

Condensation, (Push with arms straight out to the side.)

Precipitation on my head. (Pretend to “rain” on head.)

Accumulation, (Make arms sweep back and forth in front.)

Water Cycle, (Arms rotate in circle in front.)

And we start all over again. (Turn around in place in a circle.)

- Have students record their observations of their water cycle bags each day.
- Have students write a short summary describing the water cycle.
- Have students draw a comic strip following a drop of water through the water cycle. Introduce or strengthen the use of descriptive language.
- Have students act out the water cycle!
- Complete our Water Cycle Bracelet activity to strengthen their understanding of the water cycle.
- Talk more about all the places water can go.
- For upper grades, dig deeper with the three states of matter and introduce molecules.
- Learn more about water use around the world. How can we sustain clean water? How can we eliminate wasting water? What are the types of water pollution? Why is it important to keep our water clean? What does it take to clean our water?
- Invite someone from your local water treatment center in to talk with the class.
- Have students compare and contrast fresh water and salt water.
- Go to agintheclassroom.org to contact your County Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags!



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WATER CYCLE TEMPLATE

