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The Water Cycle

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The water cycle is always in motion! It is the process of the movement of water from Earth's surface, into the atmosphere, and back down again.

There are three steps in this process. The first is **evaporation**, where water is turned into a gas and moves into the atmosphere.

Next, water begins to cool as it goes higher into the atmosphere and forms **condensation**. This is how clouds form.

There are many kinds of precipitation including rain, snow, sleet, hail. Air temperature plays a factor in which form the water will fall.

The clouds soon become too heavy with water. The water will fall from the clouds in a form of **precipitation**.

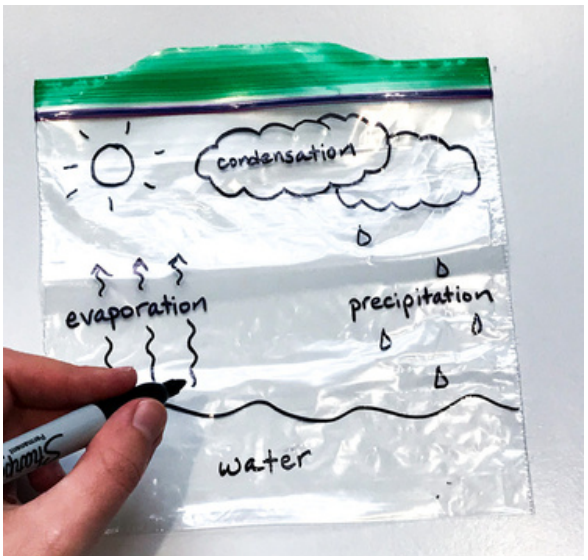
The Water Cycle

It may be hard to view Earth's water cycle at times, but we can make our own miniature version to see each step!

Supplies Needed

-Resealable bag
-1/4 cup hot water (not boiling)
-Tape
-Black marker
-Blue food coloring (optional)

1. Draw the water cycle on your bag. Be as detailed or simple as you'd like. At minimum, draw a sun, clouds, and rain drops. It can also be drawn like in the photo.



2. Heat up water on stove or in microwave. Place 1-2 drops of blue food coloring into the water and mix.

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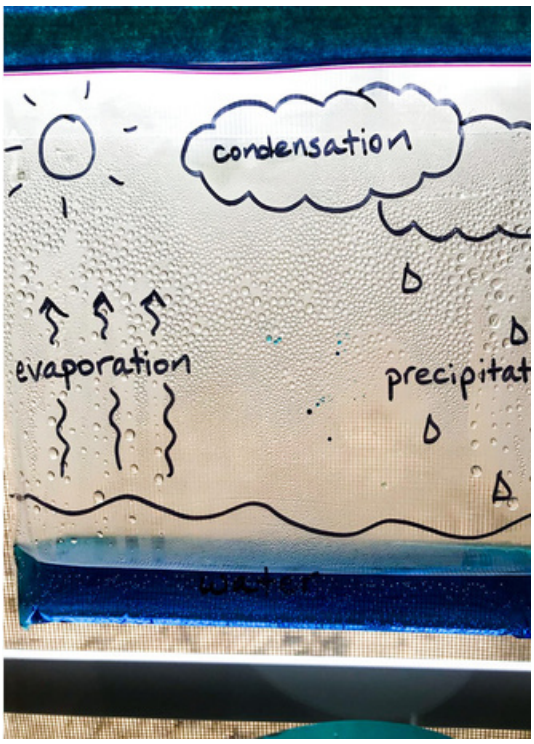
3. Carefully pour hot water into bag and seal. Observe as water goes through the water cycle.



Helpful Tips:

Right after the bag is sealed, it will get foggy. This means that the water is evaporating and has turned into a gas.

Water droplets will begin to form as condensation.

As the water droplets start to stick together, they will become too heavy and slide down the sides of the bag back into the water. This is precipitation.

Instead of doing this experiment with hot water, try using cold water. Hang your bag in a sunny window and oberve over several hours! The sun will heat the water and start the cycle!

Source: https://www.sciencemuseumok.org/smoathome/try-see-water-cycle-bag

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