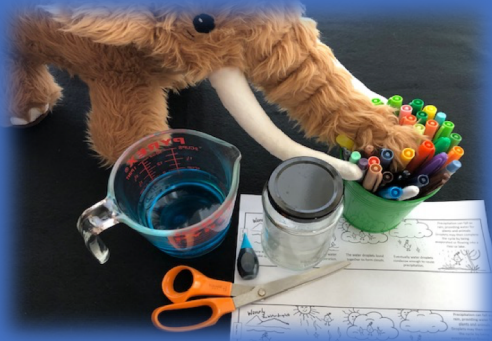
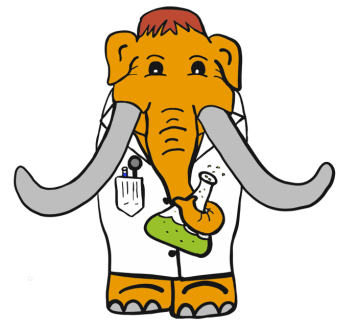


Science Saturday @ Home

The Water Cycle



Gathering Supplies:

- Clear Glass Jar with Lid
- Water
- Scissors
- Markers/Sharpie
- Blue Food Coloring (optional)
- Printout of Waverly The Water Droplet (optional)

How To Steps:

The water that we have on earth is constantly moving through what we call the **Water Cycle**. During the water cycle, droplets of water go from being a liquid to a gas and then back to a liquid or solid as rain or snow. Here are two different ways to take a look at nature's water cycle.

Waverly The Water Droplet's Trip Through The Water Cycle Printout

1. Print out the cartoon strip and color in Waverly while you discover the different steps in the water cycle.
2. Since the water cycle is ongoing, and never stops, try taping the ends together to complete a circle! Use the circle as a bracelet or to decorate around a potted plant, which is a part of nature's water cycle!

Make Your Own Water Cycle in a Jar!

1. Take a clean and clear jar and use Sharpies or markers to draw an ocean, mountains, clouds and a sun on the jar.
2. Fill the bottom of the jar with water. You can use some blue food coloring if you want your water to be blue. Only put an inch or so of water in the jar.
3. Put the lid on the jar and place it in a warm and sunny location. After a few hours check on the water cycle jar. How has the sun's warmth affected the water in your ocean? What do you see on the sides of the jar?
4. Take it further? Try putting a bag of ice on top of the jar. What effect does the cold have on the condensing water droplets at the top of the jar?

Exploring the Water Cycle with Max



Did You Know?

Did you know that we only have a fixed amount of water on the Earth that travels in different forms through the water cycle.

What is the water cycle? The sun heats up water in oceans, lakes and rivers. Sending the water molecules into the air, this is called evaporation. When the sun heats up plants, they also release water molecules into the air. This is called transpiration.

The water molecules then cool and collect in the air forming clouds. This is called condensation. When enough molecules join together they get heavy enough to cause rain. If they are cold enough they will form snow crystals. When water, in the form of rain and snow, fall back to the Earth we call it precipitation. The water falls back to the Earth and collects in rivers, lakes and oceans or is taken up by plants then the sun heats it up and the water molecules cycle back into the air again. This is the water cycle and those same water molecules have been traveling through it for billions of years!