

# Water Cycle Model

Learn about the water cycle and create a model to observe the phenomenon of evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

Watch the Water Cycle Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWb4KIM2vts>

Background: The water cycle is the process by which water is moved around the Earth. Water within our lakes, oceans, and streams evaporates into the atmosphere due to the heat from the Sun. Once in the atmosphere the water molecules cool and condense, forming clouds that are moved by wind. Eventually the water molecules in the cloud become so tightly packed and heavy that they fall from the sky in the form of precipitation. This water drains from the Earth's surface into our lakes, rivers, streams and oceans and the process begins all over again.

Supplies:

- Any sealable, clear container- you can repurpose an old mason jar, Tupperware, or even a Ziplock bag.
- Markers

Experiment:

1. Decorate and color the outside of the container to have an outdoor environment. Be sure to include a body of water, some plants and animals.
2. Fill container with about half an inch of water and seal container with the lid.
3. Place container in a sunny spot outside or in a sunny window.
4. Have students create a prediction about what will happen inside the container. The water in the container will begin to evaporate and condense at the top of the container. Eventually the water collected at the top of the container will become so heavy it drips down the side and precipitates back to the bottom of the container.

