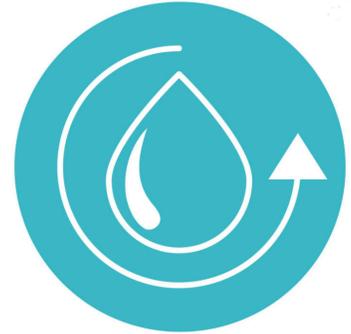


All water flows through a continuous cycle as it moves around the earth in different forms. Liquid water is found in oceans, rivers, lakes, and underground. Solid water (ice) is found in glaciers and snow. Water vapor (water in the form of gas) is found in the earth's atmosphere. In this activity, you will set up your own mini water cycle to discover how water changes forms to keep moving!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Glass or plastic container with a clear top
- Soil
- Seeds
(Suggestions: chia and clover seeds usually sprout within three days)
- Water



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill the bottom of the container with soil.
2. Take a few seeds and gently place them on top of the soil.
3. Pour some water onto the soil to make it moist. Do not saturate the soil; you do not want excess water.
4. Close the container and place it in a window under direct sunlight or under a lamp/heat source.

Over the next few days, you will begin to see the heat from the sun (or lamp) causing the water in the soil to evaporate. The water cannot escape the closed container and eventually condensates on the top of the container. The precipitation then falls back to the soil (collection) and the cycle continues.

WRITE ABOUT IT!

Pretend you are a water molecule telling the story of your journey through the water cycle. Using what you know about the water cycle, explain the places you go and the changes you make as you travel through the cycle. Be sure to use the following terms in your story: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.

Students' answers should reflect the following:

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- A water molecule takes the form of gas during evaporation. Evaporation occurs when the sun's heat causes water to turn from a liquid into vapor.
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- The water molecule collects with other water molecules to create droplets to form clouds. This is known as condensation.
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- The water molecule then falls from the sky in the form of precipitation.
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- Lastly, the precipitation that falls from the clouds collects in oceans, rivers, lakes, or other bodies of water.
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