

EARTH SCIENCE SERIES

MOVING WATER

Have you ever wondered why the Earth is known as the Blue Planet? It is because 71 percent of the world's surface is covered with water! But water is not just in the oceans or frozen in glaciers, it is all around us, in the clouds, and even in the air that we breathe. The Water Cycle keeps water moving around us all the time in different forms, like liquids, gas, and even ice.

MATERIALS AND STEPS

- A large bowl
- A mug or smaller bowl
- Water
- Plastic wrap
- A warm and sunny spot

First, place the mug in the middle of the bowl. Fill up the bowl about halfway around the mug, making sure that no water splashes into the mug. Wrap the bowl loosely in plastic wrap, making sure there is room between the top of the mug and the plastic wrap. Place the bowl in the warmest, sunniest safe spot you can find. Leave the bowl there for at least two hours.

When you come back to check the bowl, what has happened? Has any of the water moved? The warmth of the sun should have caused some of the water evaporate and then condense into drops on the plastic wrap. Some of these drops may even have fallen so that there is now water in the mug!

VOCABULARY

Evaporation is the process by which liquids turn into a gas or a vapor. An example of this is when the sun heats up water and become a vapor in our atmosphere.

Condensation is the process by which vapors turn into a liquid. An example of this is when clouds become heavy enough to produce raindrops.

FUN FACT

In Springfield, Massachusetts, it rains an average of 130 days per year and has an average of 46 inches of rainfall per year.

