Lesson Plans

StudyJams! The Water Cycle

Grades: 3–5

Overview
Children create a water wheel to illustrate each phase of the water cycle, learn vocabulary words, then apply their knowledge of the water cycle to real-life examples.

Objective
• Recognize that water changes from one state to another through evaporation, condensation, and precipitation
• Understand that clouds are made of tiny droplets of water
• Explain how water moves from state to state in the water cycle
Materials

- 1 paper circle per student
- 1 arrow per student
- 1 brad per student
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Paper cup
- Black marker

Directions

- Using a pencil, students divide the circle into thirds. To do this, tell students to draw a Y on the circle.
- Have students draw a scene in one of the thirds representing precipitation in all forms: rain, snow, hail, sleet.

- Have students draw a scene on another 1/3 of their circle representing evaporation. Brainstorm appropriate images to represent evaporation. (Students may draw water rising into the air from plants, people, and rivers in the form of water vapor.)

- Have students draw images representing condensation on the final 1/3 of the circle. Brainstorm appropriate images to represent condensation.

- Hand out arrows and brads to the students.

- Push the brad through the arrow and through the center of the circle to connect them. The arrow should be able to move on top of the circle.

- Ask questions about the water cycle and have students turn the arrow to the correct answer. Vary the responses; have the students show you the answers, show a partner, or show their table group.
Extension
• Pass out copies of the Water Cycle Disk and help the children assemble them so they can take them home.

Evaluation
1. Did the students understand the water cycle?
2. Were students able to answer the questions about the water cycle?

• Subjects:
  Water Cycle, Observation, Science, Vocabulary, Diagrams, Matter, Changes of State, Heat
**The WATER CYCLE**

For the following activity you will need:

- brass fastener
- scissors
- an adult

1. Color both discs however you'd like. Be creative!

2. Cut out both discs along the dotted line. On the second disc don't forget to cut out both windows!

3. You might need an adult to help you for this next step. Take the brass fastener and poke it through the middle of the second disc, and then poke it through the middle of the first disc. Fold back the prongs of the brass fastener.

4. Line up the image and the text for EVAPORATION. Now turn the circle in the direction of the arrow to go through all the steps of the water cycle!
DID YOU KNOW?

That all the water on Earth has been around forever?

The water cycle keeps our limited water supply going around and around so we can keep using it.

Have you ever seen water drops on a plant?

No, it's not sweating. Plants are going through transpiration, in which the plants lose water through their leaves. Transpiration helps cut evaporation by putting water vapor back into the air.

Do you know that you have seen condensation at work?

If you've ever had a drink in a cold glass or a can and the air is warm outside, you'll see water drops on the outside of the glass. This is because the water vapor in the warm air is being cooled back down into a liquid on the surface of the glass or can.